

There's plenty to do in the Big Apple
New York City offers lots of hot spots
and history for gay and lesbian travelers.
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'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'
Gay Peace Corps volunteers
find they cannot be out.
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'Proteus' flowers
Same-sex love in a
South African prison.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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A sizzling Up Your Alley Fair

The sun was out Sunday, July 25, and so were the crowds as thousands of people attended this year's Up Your Alley Fair, along Dore Alley in the South of Market District, including this group of guys above. The street fair, with its multitude of leather-clad attendees, is produced by Folsom Street Events, and is the run-up to the even larger Folsom Street Fair, which will take place September 26.

Police raids and inspections may not affect gay sex clubs

by Zak Szymanski

Recent media reports about the San Francisco Police Department's sex club raids have suggested that unlike heterosexual clubs — where illegally-built enclosed booths allegedly hosted acts of prostitution — gay clubs have not been targeted by law enforcement for similar infractions.

If that's true, say club owners and managers, it's not because of gay favoritism. It's because gay sex clubs have been heavily monitored since the early days of the AIDS epidemic, and therefore are likely to be more vigilant about the types of booths and spaces they allow in their businesses. In fact, anyone who has listened to political discourse over the past several years would know that a lack of private sex spaces is a hot-button issue

that at times forms the backbone of gay policy debate.

San Francisco's "glory days" before the mid-1980s are often cited by a variety of sex activists and health advocates in favor of "re-opening the baths." Back then, the city was chock full of bathhouses offering a variety of spaces in which gay men could engage in sex. When AIDS swept through the city, bathhouse business began to drop, while the city simultaneously attempted to shut them down. A court ruling allowed the baths to stay open as long as sexual activity was monitored and safe sex was enforced. Under these new restrictions, however, the bathhouses, fearing a further decline in business, closed. Sex clubs began springing up as an alternative, prompting current Department of Public Health guidelines around what types of activities are allowed and what the buildings hosting such activities must look like. Since then, gay sex clubs have historically been some of the only businesses to operate as advertised, unlike a variety of other venues that often illegally host sexual activities or find loopholes in the law to allow them to do so.

The provisions within the city's municipal code, as summarized by the district attorney's office, offer different ways for clubs to have separate legal spaces within their buildings; in general, a spot designated for encounters cannot have a completely enclosed booth, and a height requirement of no more than 5 feet 9 inches is assigned to the booth's door, to allow monitoring of activities. But there are many ways that businesses can avoid falling under such regulations. Some clubs are categorized depending upon their hours of operation, and whether they offer food or alcohol. Businesses categorized as bookstores or theaters, meanwhile, have very few regulations and are therefore more difficult to prosecute.

May raids

The recent focus on illegal spaces in sex venues stems from the May police raids on Market Street Cinema and New Century Theater, at which undercover officers were

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Not all 'Unity' at LGBT event

by Lisa Keen

Across town from the Democratic convention, at an expansive club across the street from Boston's historic Fenway Park, several gay organizations hosted a "Unity 2004" party for members of the gay caucus and other Democratic supporters Monday, July 26. Publicity for the \$35-a-ticket event had been building for a week, thanks to the media hoopla surrounding a decision to "disinvite" headliner Margaret Cho from the entertainment program.

At a VIP reception hosted by the Human Rights Campaign prior to the party, rocker Joan Jett and openly gay Democratic activist Chrissy Gephardt circulated and posed for pictures with admirers. Gephardt, in remarks to the gathering of about 200, congratulated the community for being unified.

But outside the reception, about a dozen protesters were voicing their dismay that HRC had initiated the request that Cho withdraw from the event's sparse entertainment lineup. HRC

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Chrissy Gephardt

Soccerific IGLFA's World Cup runneth over

by Jim Provenzano

Hundreds of gay and lesbian soccer players will converge on Golden Gate Park's Polo Fields as the San Francisco Spikes host the annual International Gay & Lesbian Football Association World Cup August 2 to 7.

While most competitors will be on American teams, some are trekking from as far away as Japan to play soccer at the annual GLBT finals of the sport.

Almost 500 players from the San Francisco Bay Area and international community are expected to compete, with more volunteering at the matches.

Barry Skown, a longtime Spikes player, said that the top-rated teams to beat would include the Spikes, Team Americas (made up of individual players with no team affiliation), and Atlanta.

"Strong teams will also be coming from Florida, San Diego, and Washington, D.C.," he said. "It really depends on how each team plays and any injuries they suffer. The Spikes are proud to be fielding three teams this year, and our Division 1 team will have an incredibly strong roster of talent."

As to home field advantage, Skown said, "Sometimes hosting a tournament can be more distracting to a team than being in familiar surroundings. When we travel, all we have to do is concentrate on soccer and hav-



Alan Westley, foreground, and members of the SF Spikes warm up before a match.

ing fun. But we are all really looking forward to hosting the other teams this year. It should be a terrific week!"

The first organized gay soccer team started

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GREAT TAN

HIVers and others urged to take West Nile virus precautions

by Zak Szymanski

In the wake of the state's first reported death from the West Nile virus, and subsequent discovery of the virus in the Bay Area, local public health officials are emphasizing caution—but not panic—when it comes to disease prevention. Still, people with HIV and other immune system deficiencies should be especially careful to guard against bites from mosquitoes, which transmit the virus from birds to humans.

Most people who carry the West Nile virus remain asymptomatic or develop flu-like symptoms that dissipate within a couple of weeks, according to Dr. Susan Fernyak, director of community health, epidemiology, and disease at San Francisco's Department of Public Health. Yet all individuals are potentially susceptible to complications from the virus.

"We are in for a significant West Nile virus season. We need to take the risk very seriously," Dr. Richard J. Jackson, California's public health officer, told news reporters after the state's first West Nile death was announced.

Last week, Southern California health officials said that a 57-year-old Orange County man was admitted to a hospital on June 17 with symptoms of encephalitis, or swelling of the brain. The man died a week later, and the presence of the West Nile virus was confirmed on July 21. He is the state's first reported death from the disease, and reportedly had a prior medical condition that has not been revealed.

At press time, at least 35 people in the state have been infected,



DPH's Dr. Susan Fernyak

all reported in Southern California. The virus also has been found in more than 1,000 dead animals in more than a dozen California counties. And a dead crow in Santa Clara County tested positive for the virus last week, said Fernyak, which means San Francisco cases appear to be on the horizon.

"We are in for a significant West Nile virus season. We need to take the risk very seriously."

"Santa Clara is very close to the San Francisco border, which means there probably will be, sometime over the next several weeks, dead birds in this county who are found to be infected," said Fernyak. "And if we look at what happens in other jurisdictions, it's just a matter of time before we start to see human cases as well."

Only about 15-20 percent of those bitten by an infected mosquito will develop West Nile symptoms, which include headaches, fever, and body aches. And only about one in every 150 people infected will experience serious complications, which are usually neuro-invasive, said Fernyak, and include encephalitis and viral meningitis. Those most susceptible to the serious complications are the elderly and those whose immune systems are compromised, such as people with HIV,

said Fernyak. The Orange County man's prior medical condition will "probably never" be publicly confirmed as HIV, said Fernyak, but his immunity was definitely compromised. Cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, as well as transplant recipients, are other people considered to be at a higher risk for developing the more serious symptoms of the virus.

There is no vaccine or cure for the West Nile, and while patients may be made more comfortable, those presenting with flu symptoms likely won't be admitted to a hospital, nor will they even be tested for the virus unless they can point to mosquito exposure.

Prevention

The key to avoiding serious West Nile symptoms is prevention, said Fernyak, adding that all people should wear long sleeved clothing as well as bug repellent in mosquito-prone areas. Environmentally, she said, people should be aware of any mosquito attractions like standing pools of water,

from bird baths to shallow puddles, emptying them wherever possible. Dead birds should be reported so that they can be discarded; one hotline for that purpose is (877) 968-2473, or WNV-BIRD. Californians in particular need to be cautious because while the virus is considered seasonal, the state has many more months of warm weather than other parts of the country.

The West Nile virus made its U.S. debut in New York in 1999 and has been traveling cross-country ever since, generating 10,000 human cases in 46 states with about 270 deaths.

"For the most part this is an asymptomatic virus," summarized Fernyak. "It's rare to be seriously sick, but it does happen, so it is important for anyone—even the immuno-confident—to protect themselves as best as they can." ▼

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LGBT leaders work to rid courts of 'trans panic'

by Zak Szymanski

It was an ordinary symbolic vote at City Hall, or so San Francisco Supervisor Tom Amiano believed.

Earlier this month, on the heels of the mistrial declared in June in the case against the men accused of murdering East Bay transgender teenager Gwen Araujo, Amiano decided to do his part as an openly gay elected official by authoring a resolution that denounced Araujo's killing, called for a re-trial of the defendants, and urged Alameda County to seek restrictions on the use of the so-called trans-panic defense.

Araujo, 17, was born as a boy named Edward but lived her life as a female since the age of 14. She was beaten and strangled to death at a house party in Newark in October 2002 by a group of men — two of whom she reportedly had sex with — after it was determined that she was biologically male.

During the murder trial, the defense relied heavily on trans panic — which closely resembled and at times was indistinguishable from the better known "gay-panic" defense — to portray Araujo as a deceptive predator who "tricked" her killers into having "homosexual sex." The defendants — Michael Magidson, Jason Cazares, and Jose Merel — according to their attorneys, were thrown into an emotional rage by Araujo's "betrayal," which rendered them unable to make rational decisions about life and death.

Although the evidence overwhelmingly showed numerous instances where the men weighed their options and forged ahead with the alleged crime, the jury in the case remained deadlocked after nearly two weeks of deliberations, unable to convict any of the defendants of premeditated, first-degree murder, and unwilling to consider all three men equally at fault.

The hung jury and subsequent mistrial enraged LGBT community members, who were not comforted by reports that the jury refused to consider manslaughter convictions. Jurors would have returned a guilty verdict for all the defendants, said activists and advocates, if they didn't at least partially believe the defense assertion that a violent panic is to be expected from learning that one had an encounter with a transgender



Former prosecutor Jim Hammer

person.

Resolutions before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors are usually submitted and voted upon without controversy, so it came as a surprise when Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez at first wanted to refer Amiano's resolution to a committee to iron out language that apparently didn't sit well with him. It seems that Gonzales, a former public defender, worried that Amiano's resolution potentially could have been read as an endorsement of limiting a suspect's ability to put on a defense. And while the matter was quickly resolved — Amiano said the wording was clarified and the resolution turned out "just fine" — it spoke to the larger dilemma faced by LGBT-friendly progressives who also fight for a justice system that includes presumed innocence and a defendant's right to present a case as part of a fair trial.

Concern with tactics

"We're really concerned about the legitimacy of some of the tactics that were used in the Gwen Araujo trial, especially those that seemed to play to societal bias against transgender people," said Chris Daley, attorney and co-founder of San Francisco's Transgender Law Center, although he acknowledged, "from everything that I understand, the arguments as they were made during trial were within the bounds of the law and professional legal ethics."

As the Araujo case approaches its second incarnation — at press time, attorneys for all parties were expected to appear at the Hayward Hall of Justice this Friday, July 30 to set a new trial date —

Daley and others are working to ensure that gay- and trans-panic defenses will not be a factor in future criminal cases.

The trans-panic defense, like the gay-panic defense, is not a legally recognized category, but rather, a way to play into jurors' fears and prejudice around sexual minorities in hopes of securing an acquittal or lesser conviction for a crime committed against an LGBT person. Trans-panic is a bit more complicated, because defendants presumably had to go through some extra steps — the discovery of their victim's birth sex, for instance — before their gay panic could set in (which is also based upon a false assumption that opposite-gendered attractions become homosexual when one member of the couple is transgender).

Trans-panic is also relatively still acceptable even where gay-panic is not, because transgender victims are portrayed as merely "in disguise" rather than living full lives, and even gay people can be found to testify that they, too, would not appreciate having relations with someone who was "not really" the sex they appeared to be.

Daley's TLC is collaborating with a variety of legal experts, lawmakers, activists, and advocates to see what can be done at a legislative level to limit the use of inherently prejudiced criminal defenses. But it's a tricky task, and not one that he takes lightly.

"As an organization, the Transgender Law Center strongly supports ensuring that criminal defendants receive vigorous representation," said Daley. "But we do draw a distinction between appropriate representation and the use of societal bias to reduce the culpability of defendants."

The problem, of course, is that right or wrong, the societal bias does exist, and it is ingrained in people, particularly young heterosexual males, whose manhood always seems to be up for assessment. Therefore, forbidding a young man to claim that he was irrational and emotional upon discovering he had sex with somebody born biologically male probably does not take his reality into account, and as any attorney knows, "the mindset of the defendant — in criminal law — is incredibly important," said Daley. "We convict for crimes based upon what the person was thinking at

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Heinz Kerry addresses LGBT Dems

by Cynthia Laird

Teresa Heinz Kerry addressed LGBT delegates at the Democratic convention in Boston Wednesday, July 28, telling an afternoon crowd that she would be a "mother" for those in the community.

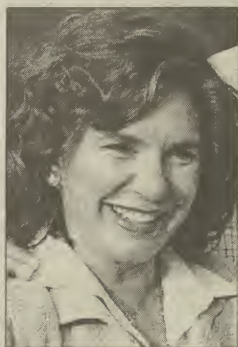
Karen Anderson, president of the East Bay LGBT Democratic Club, phoned the *Bay Area Reporter* just before the paper went to press, and said the room erupted in cheers after Heinz Kerry's comment.

"Teresa Heinz Kerry addressed us at the caucus meeting today," Anderson said.

According to Anderson, Heinz Kerry recounted a meeting she had with a gay 40-year-old man in Sonoma County, who asked her to be his mother because he felt he had lost all nurturing. She then said that if her husband, Senator John Kerry (D-Massachusetts) is elected president in November, "we would have a mother," in the White House, Anderson said, "and she identified herself as 'Mama T.'"

"The room exploded with cheers," said Anderson, who added that Heinz Kerry brought two of her sons with her to the caucus meeting.

"We were floored by the fact that she appeared and spoke to us," said Anderson. ▼



Teresa Heinz Kerry



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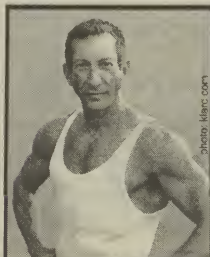
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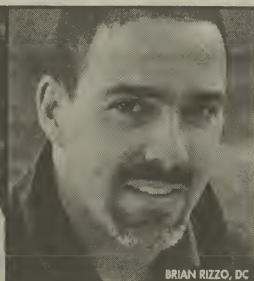
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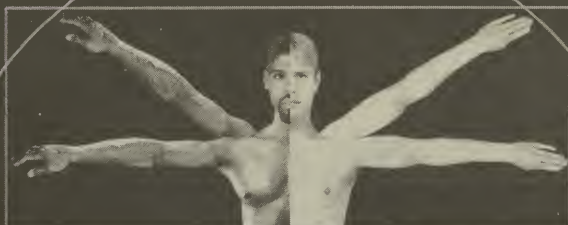
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News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

TARC benefit

The Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center is holding a benefit art-work launch and wine reception at the Shooting Gallery, 839 Larkin Street in San Francisco, on Thursday, August 5. The event takes place from 6 to 9 p.m. and a \$10 donation is suggested.

The artwork being featured is "Juanita More! And Glamamore—Live and In Drag," and is a continuation of the "Fabulous Nobodies" series commissioned by the ONE Institute in Los Angeles by local artist Jim Winters. The artwork itself will be on display the week of August 1-7.

The portraits are part of a series that is being used to promote TARC's annual fundraiser, which will be held in October.

The Fabulous Nobodies depicts gender-bending "sub-lebrities" who have attained cult status while at the same time resisted absorption into the gay mainstream.

Juanita More!, an avid TARC supporter, will be at next week's

event, along with Glamamore, the co-creator of New York's "Boy Bar Beauties" and San Francisco's Fishstix."

TARC provides a range of HIV services for homeless and marginally housed residents of the Tenderloin.

For more information about TARC's upcoming events or its services, visit www.tarc.org.

Gay attorney at BASF

Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry, will be the featured speaker at a Bar Association of San Francisco-sponsored public affairs forum and luncheon Tuesday, August 3.

Wolfson, formerly an attorney with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, has also just written a new book, *Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality, and Gay People's Right to Marry* (Simon & Schuster). During his program, Wolfson will discuss why the United States should end marriage discrimination. A book signing will follow the program, which is being co-sponsored by Bay Area Lawyers for Individual

Freedom and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

A graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School, Wolfson became the first Lambda attorney to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court when he represented Eagle Scout James Dale in *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale* in 2000. The high court upheld the right of the Boy Scouts to bar gay members and troop leaders from its organization. Wolfson also participated in the Hawaii marriage case and assisted with the Vermont legal case that resulted in the state legalizing civil unions. *Time* magazine earlier this year named Wolfson one of the "100 most influential people in the world."

The Bar association event takes place at the Omni Hotel, 500 California Street at Montgomery, in downtown San Francisco. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and the program at noon. Tickets are \$50 for BASF members and co-sponsors; \$35 for students, and \$60 for all others. Prices will increase by \$10 on the day of the program. To register, visit sfbar.org.

New digs for Oakland gay bar

by Louis Anthes

The thing speaks for itself" is the English translation of the Latin legalese "Res Ipsa Loquitur," which one could also

say about Oakland's new Bench and Bar. During its grand opening party, which was held on Saturday, July 24, patrons found themselves in a cavernous room with a huge dance floor, indoor smoking lounge, and a six-station bar, all lit up by a fabulous light show pulsing to Latin dance and hip-hop.

But the new Bench and Bar has a history.

The old Bench and Bar, which was at 120 11th Street, used to be a haunt for lawyers, clerks, and judges near the Alameda County Courthouse. Then, in the 1970s, it became a gay bar that coexisted with its community. After a condominium complex across the street underwent gentrification in the 1990s, some people in the community started complaining about noise from the bar.

The Oakland Police Department made a concerted effort to close the bar down. According to Alex Loera, who is one of the co-owners and the events coordinator, there were reports of one member of the Oakland Police Department using a bullhorn to shout "faggots" to intimidate bargoers.

Loera, along with co-owners Charles Bisbee, Keith Hobbs, and



Jose Hernandez and Francisco Marques share a kiss at the Bench and Bar grand opening party.

Frank Ciglar, fought back. The city, however, capped the bar's hours, cutting deeply into business. But, taking the name of their bar to heart, the owners threatened a lawsuit, which ultimately led to relocating the bar to downtown Oakland.

Finally, the new Bench and Bar relocated to 2111 Franklin Street, about a block-and-a-half from the 19th Street BART station.

The long, hard-fought struggle finally paid off on July 2, when the bar re-opened its doors.

The fun officially kicked off last weekend. All kinds of people packed the grand opening party—gauchos to transies—all of whom took to the largest dance floor for a gay bar in the East Bay. Club Papi and the Papi Dancers, Pan Dulce, and DJ Marco kept things hot all night. ▼

Bisexuals gather in Minneapolis next week

by Liz Highleyman

Bisexuals and their allies from across the country and around the world will gather in Minneapolis next weekend, August 5 to 8, for the eighth International Conference on Bisexuality.

Organizers say they expect

hundreds of attendees, including academics, health professionals, activists, and members of the bisexual community. The event will take place at the University of Minnesota.

Conference planners have announced a diverse lineup of workshops, plenary speakers, and social events for the biennial bisexual ex-

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ABC to hold hearing on Castro bar sale

by Matthew S. Bajko

The public outcry over the pending transfer of the Pendulum's liquor license to a Castro bar owner accused of racism has prompted a state agency to say it will hold a public hearing on the matter.

The decision by the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control adds to the mounting legal and public relations problems Les Natali faces as he pursues ownership of the Castro's only bar catering to African Americans. Natali owns the Detour and SF Badlands, which is across 18th Street from the Pendulum.

"Of course we are disappointed but we have to work through this and have to defend ourselves," said Natali.

Since this spring Natali has been in escrow to purchase the Pendulum and had hoped to easily acquire the bar's liquor license. But his plans have been derailed due to dozens of former patrons and employees of Badlands who have come forward to accuse him of racial and gender-based discrimination.

The group IsBadlandsBad.com is coordinating the effort to bring forth other patrons who feel they have faced discrimination at the bar and is pressing city officials to hold Natali accountable. A separate group of prominent black men and women have also come together to raise concerns about Natali's ownership of the Pendulum.

The city's Human Rights Commission has received eight complaints of discrimination by patrons at Natali's bar within the last year, as well as another 12 incidents purported to have taken place since he bought the business nearly four years ago. Natali has agreed to mediation to resolve the complaints and will begin meeting with his accusers and HRC staff in early August.

"Badlands does not discriminate against anyone. We welcome everyone," Natali said. "We asked for mediation several weeks ago now and we are hoping that can happen soon."

Natali is also fighting a lawsuit alleging he conspired with Pendulum owner Rod Kobila to break an oral contract Kobila had to sell the bar to John McNeil, the owner of Hortica on Castro Street. Kobila's and Natali's attorney, Richard Stephen Goldstein, has dismissed the case, saying neither man did anything wrong and that the lawsuit is without merit.

McNeil has lost two attempts to immediately block the sale of the bar, and the case is set to be heard in San Francisco Superior Court in November.

"There are no talks of settling" out of court, McNeil told the B.A.R. this week. "I want it to go before a jury."

81 complaint letters

Around the same time the ABC may schedule the public hearing on the transfer of the bar's liquor license. As of this week, the state agency said it had received 81 letters of complaint and protest regarding Natali's request to acquire the Pendulum's liquor license as well as calls to suspend his liquor licenses at his two bars.

Carl DeWing, the ABC's infor-



John Newsome at press conference.

mation officer, told the B.A.R. this week that the hearing will not be scheduled until after the agency's investigation of the racism allegations is completed. DeWing said ABC officers are in the middle of a three-month investigation, which will include interviewing the complainants and sending in undercover agents to the bar, to determine if there is any merit to the charges.

"Under the state's regulations we are required to hold a hearing to determine whether the opposition is valid or not. We will probably wait until after there is a conclusion or determination on whether we will move forward on the discrimination accusations or not," said DeWing. "We are probably a month or so away from any conclusion."

While he declined to state when a public hearing could be calendared, he did say it would be held in San Francisco.

John Newsome, a spokesman for IsBadlandsBad.com, said, "We are glad that the ABC is investigating this matter and taking it seriously."

Largest HRC complaint?

In announcing a press conference last Friday, July 23, to discuss the upcoming mediation, spokesmen for IsBadlandsBad.com trumpeted three times — once in bold — in their press release that the complaint is "the biggest civil rights complaint in the history of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission."

HRC compliance officer Larry Brinkin said Monday, however, that such claims are not accurate.

"It is one of the largest but not the largest," Brinkin told the B.A.R. "It is the largest in some time."

The largest complaints the agency has handled have included workers at San Francisco International Airport and women employees at one particular institution. He did say the allegations against Natali are unusual in that it is rare to have this many customers unrelated to each other file complaints with the HRC.

After being asked about the claim in its release Monday afternoon, Newsome said HRC staff had alerted them after the Friday press conference about the mistake.

"It was our initial understanding based on a conversation we had with staff" at the HRC, explained Newsome.

On Tuesday, the group sent out a correction and apologized for the inaccurate release.

"This error was due to a miscommunication between ourselves and representatives of the HRC, and for that we are sorry. We are particularly upset that this has occurred because we have been extremely careful to be both transparent and data-driven in all of our activities," read the group's e-mail.

The group refused to disclose what its demands of Natali

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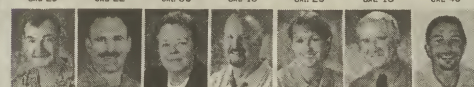
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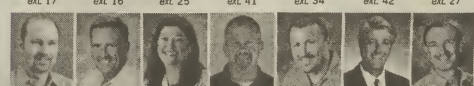
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Mixed messages

As Democrats prepare to formally nominate Massachusetts Senator John Kerry as their party's presidential candidate tonight (Thursday, July 29) in Boston, it's safe to say that party officials are indeed playing it safe. The word went out at the beginning of the Democratic convention to tone down the anti-Bush rhetoric and to keep speeches positive. But from what we've seen of the convention so far, there's talk about gays too much.

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), the first out lesbian elected to Congress, didn't even utter the g-word during her address to delegates Monday evening – and she's the vice chair of the convention. She was “degayed” even before taking the podium. During her introduction, some young people in her home state, speaking via satellite hookup, boasted that she was the first woman elected to Congress from her state. What about her being the first out lesbian ever elected to Congress? Doesn't that merit a mention? Baldwin's speech dealt with health care – a crucial issue for many in the community – yet she didn't say anything about lesbians, traditionally one of the groups without access to health care. In her single nod to the community, Baldwin mentioned that domestic partners should be covered. That was it.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, who made national headlines when he ordered the city to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, wasn't even asked to speak at the convention, even though he's considered a rising star in the party – or at least was before unleashing the “Winter of Love.” He seems to be taking it in stride, however, and has been feted at numerous parties while in Boston. The *San Jose Mercury News* pointed out this week that the Kerry campaign has “kept its distance from the telegenic mayor. He was not invited to address the convention because he's identified with a controversial issue that many Democrats want to avoid; for them, it's bad enough that same-sex marriage is now legal in Massachusetts.”

Need we remind the Democratic National Committee that it chose Boston as the site for its convention and that the gay mar-

riage issue had been in court for years in the state before the nuptials became a reality in May?

One exception to gay invisibility at the convention was Tuesday night's keynote address by Illinois Senate candidate Barack Obama. He delivered a powerful indictment of the right wing, when he said, “There are those who are preparing to divide us, the spin masters and negative ad peddlers who embrace the politics of anything goes. Well, I say to them tonight, there's not a liberal America and a conservative America – there's a United States of America. ... The pundits like to slice-and-dice our country into red states and blue states; red states for Republicans, blue states for Democrats. But I've got news for them, too. We worship an awesome God in the blue states, and we don't like federal agents poking around our libraries in the red states. We coach Little League in the blue states and have gay friends in the red states. ... We are all one

people.”

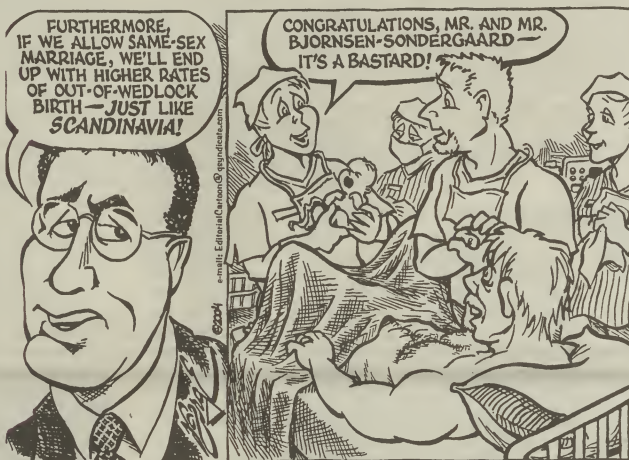
In contrast, the speakers most likely to mention gay issues are relegated to early speaking slots. Former San Francisco Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg, who also served in the Clinton administration, spoke on Monday and opened her speech with: “... I am a lawyer, a mother, and a lesbian.” She went on to call for gays and lesbians “to be fully included in the life of America” and said that the Democratic Party rejects the Federal Marriage Amendment.

As we go to press, Human Rights Campaign President Cheryl Jacques is expected to speak Wednesday evening, following in the footsteps of her predecessor, Elizabeth Birch, who gave a speech at the 2000 convention.

So there have been mixed messages coming out of Boston. It's disappointing, especially after party officials trumpeted delegate diversity, and pointed out that this year's convention, with approximately 236 LGBT delegates, is the “most gay-inclusive” ever. ▼



Editorial



Aboard Rosie's cruise

by Marina Gatto

My experience on the first-ever Rosie and Kelly O'Donnell “R Family” cruise was something that I would give almost anything to relive. I encountered many other teens and children that had similar family situations, and we quickly became friends. It was nice on the ship to have an environment that was free of hate and discrimination – an environment where my moms could walk together, holding hands, and not be discriminated against. I no longer felt the need to defend them against rude comments or harassment, and I was free to be myself. I have always been very open about my family, and loved sharing our story.

Although everything on the cruise was amazing, there were a few things that made me feel more than uncomfortable. We stopped in many places along the cruise route, such as Key West and finally, Nassau, Bahamas. Although I enjoyed all of the places, the environment in Nassau was much less than friendly. We were warned that we would be met with protesters upon arriving at the island, but this in no way prepared me for what I was about to face. After getting off the boat I looked around, and saw no protesters, but heard chants that seemed to be coming from far away. On our way to a store I noticed people staring at us. As we walked into the store my moms, like usual, were holding hands. All of the clerks immediately stopped talking and just stared at us. They started making rude comments, and alluding to the fact that we were not welcome in their store, and our money was no good. We turned around and started to

walk out when all of a sudden one lady grabbed us by the arm and said, “It's okay, they're with me.” My heart began to lift at that point, as I realized that not everyone shared the same hatred for my family.

I left the store feeling satisfied, but still wondering how everyone knew that this “gay cruise” was coming. All of a sudden, my moms stopped walking, and began reading the headline of the newspaper. It stated that our cruise was coming to the Bahamas, so everyone should be on guard. I had so many mixed feelings, yet tried to remain positive. As we were browsing through one of the stores, however, the chanting seemed to be getting louder. I stepped outside the shop and was immediately overwhelmed with protesters on both sides of the street.

I saw children carrying antigay signs, and babies being taught “fag,” as one of their first words. People carried bibles and yelled how Jesus does not love us. We were approached by numerous protesters who yelled at us. I choked back the tears and I wondered why people would teach their children hate. I never knew hate when I was that young, yet saw children carrying signs that said antigay phrases, expressing how our boat would sink.

HBO was following us through the straw market for part of the time. They wanted to interview us about our experience. I told them how I couldn't understand why a group of people that should know discrimination first hand would still hate my family simply because of their religious beliefs.

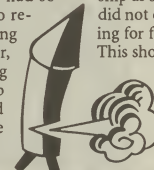
As soon as I was done speaking I noticed that people had gathered around me, and

were starting to make comments to the camera. Before I knew quite what was going on me and my moms were being pulled toward an aisle with people shouting, “you are welcome over here! This is the aisle of love!” I soon saw signs in rainbow colors that said “Welcome,” and talked with many friendly people that expressed how sorry they were for those that were protesting us.

Back on the boat I realized that many people had immediately gone back to the ship as soon as they saw the protesters, and did not even hold hands as they were walking for fear of being discriminated against. This shocked and saddened me. In a way it didn't even seem fair that here is my family, putting ourselves at risk, to further educate people, and other couples refused to do the same.

On the last day my mom Arzu had to go and check in with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services before leaving the ship. As we walked in and waited for our turn, the line moved very quickly, and everyone in front of us seemed to be in and out within minutes. Arzu went up, and was taking much longer than everyone else.

Soon Arzu was on the brink of tears. An official told her that she could not come back into the country because she did not have a renewed passport or the right information on her visa. I still do not quite understand all of the legalities behind this. I immediately ran downstairs to find the HBO crew, as my mom and Arzu went back to talk to immigration. I knew that it would be less likely for them not to let Arzu back in



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Angry over Cho flap

I already hated the Human Rights Campaign and its closet-case logo of the little yellow equal sign on the blue background and its name that doesn't even mention that the group is about gay rights, which is ridiculous because it is a single-issue group that doesn't care about anyone else's rights. I hated HRC before and I hate it even more now.

The HRC's latest flaw is that it has disinvited Margaret Cho from the "Unity" event in Boston. In response, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has withdrawn from the event. In a marvelous example of self-censorship, the HRC decided to disinvite Cho over fears that her performance could be used by the right wing.

But I already didn't like HRC. Here are some of the reasons: it is an inside-the-beltway, top-down organization that sucks money out of gay people around the country and decides without much of any input from them what issues the HRC will concentrate on. It's not a grassroots organization.

HRC resists including transgender folks in legislation. It has supported only versions of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that don't include trans people, and also does not support the inclusion of trans folks in federal hate crimes laws.

HRC refused to issue a position on the war on Iraq. What about the human rights of civilians in Iraq? What about all the money wasted on this war that could have been spent on domestic needs?

But there are far too many people whose activism consists of writing an annual check to the HRC and sticking a bumper sticker on their rainbow-flagged SUV. I don't see the HRC going away any time soon, unfortunately. But maybe its dissing of someone as well-liked in the GLBT community as Margaret Cho will lead some people to start questioning whether we need the kind of "leadership" the HRC offers.

Larry-bob Roberts
San Francisco

Questions for Haaland

I have some questions for Robert Haaland, who's running for supervisor in District 5, where I've lived for a long time. They arise because of his involvement with the Harvey Milk GLBT Democratic Club, of which he was recently president. His involvement makes me wonder whether he's qualified to serve at City Hall. Let me explain.

I was a member of the Milk Club (then known as the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club) for a few years beginning in 1979. At the time, it was a flexible, pragmatic group, rooted in the city's gay neighborhoods, with a huge membership and a sterling reputation.

Alas, all that was to change. The club was devastated in the 1980s and 1990s. Many of its most innovative and inspiring members died from AIDS. They were people who could have gone on to achieve greatness in the city and the state, maybe even the nation.

As the giants of the club receded into the mists, the midjets emerged and took over. Under its last four presidents, including Robert Haaland, the club has become increasingly brittle and doctrinaire. It has lost touch with daily life in the city's gay neighborhoods. It now pushes a distinct ideological line, and woe to anyone who questions it.

A few years ago, I myself discovered how much the club had declined, when I spoke up about the declining quality of life in our neighborhoods. I called for greater control over the drunks, junkies, and drug dealers who continue to trash many of the city's public places and create public health hazards.

My model was Harvey Milk, who had cared about the quality of life in the neighborhoods. His first legislation as a supervisor was a law requiring people to clean up after their dogs in public places. How would Harvey have felt about human beings routinely defecating and urinating on the sidewalks of the Castro, and with impunity?

When I raised these issues, certain honchos of the Milk Club were outraged. More than that, they emerged as the city's second most vocal opponents to the needed reforms, surpassed only by the Coalition on Homelessness.

They responded to my call with vicious personal attacks, name-calling, and character assassination. In chat rooms on the Internet, they repeatedly made outrageously false claims about my personal life, while hiding behind pseudonyms such as "Milkcluber" and "Militant Midget." One Milk Clubber angrily told me he hoped I would be evicted from my apartment and become homeless.

The worst part is that this nasty behavior was part of a larger pattern that affected other issues and people. An example was the 2002 supervisorial race in District 8, which includes the Castro.

The club supported Eileen Hansen against Bevan Dufty. Hansen packaged herself as "the progressive alternative." Her supporters attacked Dufty as a tool of Mayor Brown, while Dufty ran a positive, issue-oriented campaign.

During the campaign, slick signs appeared in the

Castro saying "Mayor Willie Brown Supports Bevan Dufty for Supervisor." They were unsigned, but gave the impression of being from Brown.

It eventually came out that the Milk Club had printed the signs and put them up. The play backfired. It made the Milk Clubbers look stupid and contributed to Dufty's victory.

Other dirty tricks of a similar nature have occurred in local races, but the perpetrators were never caught. The club denies any involvement. But it remains suspect because it got caught with its pants down in the Dufty escapade. Such suspicions about the club never rose during the times of Harvey Milk. That's the difference.

All of which leads me to ask two questions of Robert Haaland: 1) Did you have anything to do with the anonymous signs used against Bevan Dufty, or with other recent dirty tricks in local races? 2) What will you do to control the drunks, junkies, and drug dealers who are trashing our neighborhoods?

In asking these questions, I realize that Haaland can't be held responsible for all the club's failings. Nonetheless, he was in a position of leadership during the club's great decline. It's legitimate for voters to ask him to clarify his behavior and positions in light of that connection.

Arthur Evans
San Francisco

Send them a bill

In the July 22 article on homeless youth, not one of the individuals mentioned was born or raised in San Francisco ["Castro housing project helps homeless youth feel at home"]. Yet we are spending our very limited resources on them, depriving our own people of help.

Is there some way to bill their home communities for the expense of their rehabilitation? That is where their disabilities were developed. Why should we be saddled with the expense of rehabilitating them? If instead we sent them back to the community where they went awry, that community would be forced to examine their modus operandi and deal with correcting their deleterious behavior.

James Keefer
San Francisco

Badlands and Dyke March

Regarding the Guest Opinion "Discrimination stops here" [July 22]: I have a question: what is the difference between the owner of the Badlands (supposedly) not allowing or not welcoming women and people of color into his bar, and the Dyke March, proclaiming in print, that men are not allowed to join the annual Dyke March ("Dyke March - men told not to rain on Parade" *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 26)? If the owner of the Badlands got a *Chronicle* reporter to write an article about women being welcome to stand outside on the sidewalk and "cheer on" the patrons inside would that make it okay? Let me answer my own question. No, that would not make it okay. Inclusion is inclusion. And discrimination is discrimination and in my opinion it is never justified. People in glass houses ...

Joe Mac
San Francisco

Patron enjoys center cafe

After getting over my surprise reading Mr. Neilson's letter about the Three Dollar Bill Cafe at the LGBT Community Center [Mailstrom, July 15], I am moved to reply.

First, I am already a habitué of the cafe and truly enjoy the ambiance, the food, the coffee, the free wireless, the music, the video entertainment, the daily papers, and the friendly staff. My husband and I are often there chatting with friends and have never had any issues with the music or its sound level. In fact, I've seen the staff studiously turn down a song when one comes on a bit louder than permits easy conversation.

Mr. Neilson alludes to the staff as "twinks," which raises disquieting issues of judgment within our community. Using the term twink as a put-down does not help us in our quest to grow beyond issues of age in an age-conscious society. On the other hand, at the cafe I have seen a diverse group and am always made to feel welcome by staff and my fellow patrons. I am not the only person who's seen 50 come and go, nor is there a dearth of young folks and folks in between.

I do hope that many more people will come and enjoy this wonderful new addition to the center and our community.

David King
San Francisco

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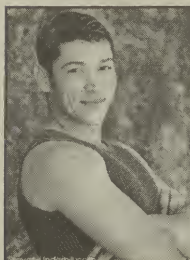
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Is outing in again?

by Paula Martinac

You'd think there'd be nothing left to say about outing, given some 15 years of debate about it in our community. But sure enough, outing has once again reared its controversial head. And to be honest, the political tactic that once looked bold has gone awry.

The latest outing spree began in response to attempts by radical right-wingers in Congress, fueled by the support of our "compassionate" president, to pass the heinous Federal Marriage Amendment. Gay activists John Aravosis and Michael Rogers launched a no-holds-barred crusade to out high-level, closeted staffers of rabidly antigay congressmembers. Aravosis defended his much-publicized actions in the *Washington Blade*, stating that "such staffers are, at best, enemy combatants; and, at worst, war criminals."

It's chilling that a gay activist would use the lingo of Bush's so-called war on terrorism to justify a course of action on behalf of our community. One of the major forces behind the FMA, the odious Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, used similarly eerie rhetoric to bolster the supposed need for the amendment, calling efforts to "defend" heterosexual marriage "the ultimate homeland security."

Strange how the lines between the far left and far right can so easily blur. Decades ago, it was homophobes who held "outing" (though they didn't call it that) over the heads of average gay people, for whom exposure of their sexuality meant losing their jobs or their families or even their freedom. In the bad old days, witch hunts like the McCarthy hearings ruined many innocent gay people's lives.

Fast forward to the present, and outing as a tool of the gay movement is very different, with gay journalists and activists exposing public figures who work against the gay movement while enjoying the protection of the closet. Sometimes the effort pays off: Representative Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona) went public about his homosexuality when he was faced with the likelihood of being outed by several gay publications because he had voted for the notorious Defense of Marriage Act in 1996. Kolbe then felt freer to vote his conscience, supporting more pro-gay legislation than he did be-



Christine Smith

fore his outing.

But what if Kolbe hadn't been a social moderate to begin with? Lurking beneath the good intentions of outing is the creepy assumption that gay people should, simply by virtue of being gay, walk in political lockstep—that, once freed from the restraints of the closet, gay people will automatically think in a set way on matters of public policy. Indeed, there's often fierce outrage in the community against those who see issues through an entirely different filter; I myself have railed against gay Republicans in past installments of this column.

Granted, it's hard for the majority of us to understand someone like the head of the Hawaii Log Cabin Republicans, Jeffrey Bingham Mead, who told a reporter that, in his chapter, "All of us, including me, believe that marriage is between one man and one woman." The likelihood that many gay people will vote for Bush this year boggles my mind. In a similar vein, it's hard to understand how Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas could rule against affirmative action, or how women could be ardent anti-choice activists, working to eliminate their own reproductive freedom.

Still, it seems that bullying gay people on the other side of the political fence to agree with the rest of us—and to take up the activism we want them to do—is pretty naive. That's really what this new round of outing amounts to: if you don't see things our way, we'll

hunt you down, hound you, and tell everyone that you're gay. (But, oh yeah, being gay is good.)

It's no coincidence that Aravosis is the activist who gave us two other similarly rigid campaigns: StopDrLaura.com, an attempt to prevent the radio doctor's TV show from airing because she might use it to spout her antigay views; and DearMary.com, an outpouring of messages to Mary Cheney trying to coerce her to use her six-figure job in the Bush-Cheney campaign to wield influence with her powerful pop and his boss on the issue of marriage equality. (Personally, I'm skeptical that all those "Dear Mary" postcards have made her lose sleep—especially if she takes after her conscience-free Dad. I've read that there's a new verb coming into popular usage: "to Cheney" means to go from one cushy job to the next through personal contacts.)

I'm not suggesting that it's impossible for people to change their political opinions; Republicans and Democrats alike alter their political thinking all the time. In particular, there are ample instances of gay people who worked for homo-vicious right-wingers and later decided it was against their conscience to do so. But I am pretty certain the process comes about through personal reflection and political soul-searching, and not because they're badgered into it. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

Lesbian Notions

Travel insurance firm sued for refusing AIDS-related claim

by Zak Szymanski

A traveler who succumbs to a long-term life-threatening illness does not render his group's travel insurance invalid, especially when that insurance company claims to cover pre-existing conditions, according to the AIDS Legal Referral Panel and the law firm of Murphy, Pearson, Bradley & Feeney.

The San Francisco-based attorney groups are suing the insurance company Trip Assured Inc., for

denying insurance benefits to a family that was forced to cancel a cruise to Mexico when one of its members unexpectedly fell ill and died.

Filed in San Francisco Superior Court on July 15, the lawsuit claims that Howard and Margaret Burgess, 75, had planned a family cruise for their son Kenneth and his life partner Dennis Knebel. For peace of mind, including protection from any incidents that may have arisen from traveling with seniors, the family purchased travel insurance. Kenneth Burgess disclosed his HIV-positive status to

the company before the policy was purchased, and was told to simply provide a letter from a doctor indicating fitness to travel.

In October 2003, Kenneth Burgess experienced a sudden and rapid deterioration in health, passing away just two days after the cruise was scheduled to start.

Trip Assured has reportedly insisted that it is not required to pay benefits under the insurance contract because Kenneth Burgess's illness could reasonably have been expected to result in the cancella-

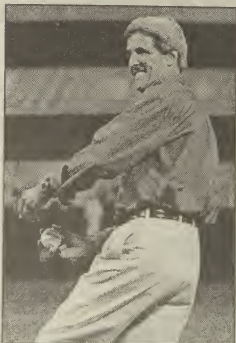
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POLITICS

Political battle lines drawn for November

by Wayne Friday

With Senator **John Kerry** (D-Massachusetts) formally accepting the Democratic Party's nomination for president tonight (Thursday, July 29) in Boston's Fleet Center, his vice presidential nominee, Senator **John Edwards** (D-North Carolina) having done so Wednesday night, delegates to the four-day convention head back to their home states feeling they have a pretty good chance of unseating Republican President **George W. Bush** in November.



John Kerry tosses out first pitch at Fenway Park

The nomination of the Kerry-Edwards ticket means the battle lines for the November general election have been clearly drawn. Republicans, after their late August convention in New York City, will likely focus on foreign policy, claiming that Kerry is lacking in that area, and painting the Democrats as somehow being unreliable stewards in this dangerous post-September 11 world.

While Democrats will point out that Kerry and Edwards have a plan of their own for fighting terrorism, Democrats feel that while the terrorist threat still looms big, it is still the economy, stupid.

I think Kerry's choice of Edwards as his running mate was a brilliant move. Edwards has freshness and definite crowd appeal that only complements Kerry's steadiness and experience, and having Edwards on the national ticket also makes working-class issues a very important part of the national debate.

Indeed, where Kerry has mostly made his military and political experience the core of his campaign leading up to the nomination, it was Edwards who ran during the primaries on a theme that "today, under this president, there are two Americas, not one" — one favored, one forgotten.

While some of the 12 percent to 15 percent of undecided voters who will reportedly decide this presidential election will cast their ballots against candidates, rather than being inspired to vote for a candidate, Edwards speaks directly to blue-collar, labor union workers who were once the stalwart base of the party, the so-called Reagan Democrats of the 1980s, but who voted for Democrat **Bill Clinton** in the 1990s. Their votes are up for grabs this year and Edwards, the son of a mill worker, clearly has an understanding of the working-class experience and the role it plays in

the nation.

No question, the Kerry-Edwards ticket coming out of Boston this week offers a stark contrast to the Bush-Cheney ticket that Republicans will be putting forth. With the imminent threat of terrorism, both internationally and at home, many feel that this presidential election carries a gravity that America hasn't seen in decades.

In my view, Bush, a court-appointed president, has taken this country down a dark and dangerous road with his unnecessary war in Iraq and his failed economic and foreign policies, and the Kerry-Edwards ticket nominated this week by the Democratic Party offers this badly divided nation a chance to unite once again under new leadership.

Democrats have ample reason to be excited as they leave Boston this week and take their case to America's voters. The ticket of John Kerry and John Edwards clearly offers a refreshing change to what George W. Bush and **Richard Cheney** have wrought upon this country and it is now time for a new president of the United States.

Politics and people

Nader, again: There was **Ralph Nader**, pouting like a spurned politician (would Arnold call this guy a "girlie man" after being advised he wasn't welcome at this week's Democratic convention. This, after the guy had the balls to happily accept the 43,000 signatures that the Michigan Republican Party submitted on his behalf to ensure his appearance on the ballot in that state.

Hey, I seldom make political predictions (they usually are wrong) but here's one — Nader's campaign eventually fails to get on enough state ballots to make his effort even credible, so after both national conventions are out of the way and he becomes irrelevant, he finds a way to save face (both of them) and folds up his so-called campaign, claiming something like he "simply cannot take the chance of Bush getting re-elected" and grudgingly urges his supporters to back John Kerry (remember, you read it here first).

In Sacramento, the state budget impasse kept many Democratic members, even some of those who were elected delegates, from attending this week's Boston convention. Assembly Speaker **Fabian Nunez** (D-Los Angeles) admitted that he would have liked to attend the Democratic confab but said "actually, it's no sweat off my back; I want to stay focused on this budget and get it done."

Senate President Pro Tem **John Burton** (D-San Francisco) had already instructed the nine Senate Democrats who had planned to go to Boston to stay in the state, saying, "Nobody elected them to go to conventions, and I wasn't going anyway." Burton, in his usual self-important manner, seemed to be suggesting that if he wasn't going to the convention it wasn't important for anyone else to go.

After a monthlong impasse that has all but ruined the bipartisan good will that marked Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger's**

first nine months in office, the governor and Democratic leaders of the state Legislature announced Tuesday morning that they have agreed on an estimated \$103 billion budget for California. While the agreement still needs approval from two-thirds of the Democrat-controlled Legislature, lawmakers, some attending the Democratic National Convention in Boston were flying back to the Capitol and were expected to approve the compromise spending plan sometime this week.

The *San Jose Mercury News* recently ran a front-page story on Representative **David Dreier** (R-California) calling the handsome, youthful-looking, 52-year-old bachelor congressman an "L.A.-area ally of Schwarzenegger and Bush (and is) the state's most visible conservative in Congress." While the amiable and articulate Dreier has surely emerged as one of the GOP and President Bush's

most frequent supporting faces on national television, Dreier apparently is also a political realist in that he quickly resisted the urging of Governor Schwarzenegger and other Republicans to challenge U.S. Senator **Barbara Boxer** (D-California) this year, for reasons best known only to Dreier, I must assume. But then again maybe it's because, as he told the *Mercury News*, "he gets more pleasure campaigning for other people than he does for himself." Bush and Dreier have supposedly been friends since 1978 when both first ran for Congress — and lost, and with Bush facing a tough re-election race this year, TV viewers probably will continue to see a lot of Dreier on the president's behalf.

Indeed, **Charlie Black**, a top adviser to the Bush campaign, told the *Mercury News* that the Bush White House's attitude is, "get him on every show you can." As chairman of the powerful House Rules Committee, Dreier plays an important role on virtually every piece of legislation in Congress, and while the Southern California congressman is reportedly on record as being against a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, we'd really be interested in where the powerful Bush ally stands on other issues affecting the LGBT community; one can only assume he follows the Bush anti-gay platform right down the line.

Supes galore: Many San Francisco supervisorial candidates last week turned in signatures to get on the ballot in several districts. In District 1 former Judge **Lillian Sing** submitted 2,724 signatures with the Department of Elections. That figure was over 900 more signatures than submitted by the incumbent, **Jake McGoldrick**. Sing: "Our neighborhood needs new leadership and my 23 years as a judge gives me the ability to see all sides of issues; this quality is needed if a leader is to build bridges over the walls that divide people. I am a compassionate problem-solver, and I will be a strong, effective lawmaker." This column couldn't agree more — the voters of District 1 would do well to elect Sing as their supervisor on

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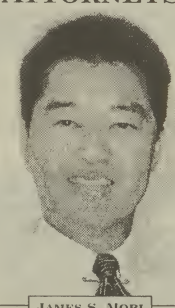


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Who was Samuel Steward?

by Liz Highleyman

July 1909 (95 years ago this month): Samuel Steward is born in Woodsfield, Ohio.

Through his writing and his work with Dr. Alfred Kinsey, Samuel Steward — better known to many as Phil Andros — helped shed light on the gay male sexual cultures of the pre-Stonewall era.

Steward was born in July 1909 in Woodsfield, Ohio. He had a middle-class, midwestern upbringing, and earned his undergraduate degree and Ph.D. at Ohio State University.

While he was a student, Steward began a correspondence with Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, which developed into a long-term friendship after he visited them in Paris in 1936. When they asked if he was gay, he replied that he went both ways: "I don't see why I should go through life limping on just one leg to satisfy a so-called norm." Steward spent his early career as a college teacher. He was fired from a position at Washington State University after administrators deemed his first novel, *Angels on the Bough* (1936), too racy. He then moved to Chicago, where he taught at two Catholic universities, Loyola and DePaul.

A colleague introduced Steward to Dr. Kinsey in 1949, not long after the sex researcher had published his groundbreaking *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*. Kinsey's revelation that a sizable portion of the population had engaged in homosexual activity "simply blasted this damn country wide open," Steward later recalled, adding that gay men regarded Kinsey as a savior.

Steward became an unofficial collaborator, providing Kinsey with information about the homosexual cruising scene and the nascent leather-S/M subculture. Steward had gotten interested in S/M in his 20s. At the time, there were no specialty leather stores, and he bought his first leather jacket from Sears. Kinsey "went hog wild" over the small assortment of whips and other gear Steward had commissioned from a local saddler, and insisted on having everything duplicated for

his own collection. On one occasion, Kinsey arranged for Steward and a sadist from New York City to visit his institute in Bloomington, Indiana, where the two men were filmed engaging in S/M for three consecutive afternoons.

Even before he met Kinsey, Steward had been a compulsive record-keeper. Over the years, he documented 5,000 sexual encounters with 800 partners, including a brief affair with *Our Town* playwright Thornton Wilder, a fling with Lord Alfred Douglas, and 211 encounters with a woman named Emmy. Although he saw a few hustlers on a regular basis for many years, he never had a long-term lover. "It would be nice, you know, to have a man around the house," he once wrote, "but if not, you settle for a dog."

By the early 1950s, Steward had grown frustrated as a teacher, describing DePaul as "a kind of co-ed religious kindergarten" and the student body as "cowed, clannish, and conformist." As a sign of his "anti-intellectual revolt," Steward — who played bit parts with various ballet and drama companies — decided to get a small tattoo for a role. He soon left teaching and became a tattoo artist himself, working under the name Phil Sparrow.

Steward's working-class clientele opened his eyes to "a much more vibrant and vital life than I'd ever had up to that time." Tattooing took much of his time away from socializing at gay venues, but that suited him fine, since sexual prospects now walked into his South State Street shop. "I didn't have to go cruising," he recalled. "They all came to me." Steward had many sexual liaisons in his shop's back room, often with men who did not identify as homosexual. "[I]t was a lot more natural than the phony middle-class morality that I had been familiar with," he later told an interviewer.

After Illinois raised the legal age for getting a tattoo, Steward moved to Oakland, California, in 1965. Although he continued to work as a tattooist for a few more years, he devoted an increasing amount of time to his writing.

Steward garnered the most acclaim for gay male erotica written under the name Phil Andros ("lover of men"). With titles like *Stud*, *The Greek Way*, and *Different Strokes*, many of the tales relate the adventures of the narrator, Phil, a young hustler (based largely on the real-life experiences of Steward and his acquaintances). Unlike the guilty, self-pitying homosexual characters typical of the era's literature, Phil was exuberant and unapologetic. According to the late author John Preston, Steward was "a pilgrim reporting on the multi-faceted mysteries and fantasies of a sensual experience that contradicted the mass-market concepts of the unhappy, guilt-ridden, tragicomic homosexual." In the 1980s, Steward wrote a series of mystery novels (including *Murder Is Murder Is Murder*) featuring Stein, Toklas, and a gay writer modeled after himself.

Steward died in 1993 at the age of 84. Men like Steward "who were willing to be themselves when doing such was dangerous and illegal," says author and leatherman Jack Rinella, "paved the way for you and me to live our lives openly and proudly." ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

Suggested reading

Kissack, Terence (editor). 2000. "Alfred Kinsey and Homosexuality in the '50s: The Recollections of Samuel Morris Steward." *Journal of the History of Sexuality*.
Steward, Samuel. 1977. *Dear Sammy: Letters from Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas* (Houghton).
Steward, Samuel. 1990. *A Social History of the Tattoo with Gangs, Sailors, and Street-Corner Punks, 1950-1965* (Haworth).

Our Man Friday

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November 2.

Other candidates who turned in signatures include District 5 hopefuls **Robert Haaland** (2,000 signatures), **Joseph Blue** (1,200-plus), and **Ross Mirkarimi** (more than 1,000); **Renee Saucedo** in District 9 (more than 1,000); and **Myrna Lim** (2,400 signatures) in District 11. The signatures, once verified, allow the candidates to waive the \$500 filing fee; at least 1,000 verified signatures are required.

And finally, at this week's Democratic convention, the Human Rights Campaign chucked gay-favorite comedian **Margaret Cho**. Citing potential media backlash, the HRC apparently uninvited the controversial comedian from performing at a Monday night "Unity" gala. "We didn't want to censor her, so we made other plans," said HRC's **Mark Shields**. HRC was apparently hoping to

keep in line with the Democratic Party plan to lowball the Bush-bashing at the four-day confab.

More on the convention: Former Maine U.S. Senator (and ambassador) **George Mitchell**, now chairman of the board of Disney, introduced Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) at a gala Monday luncheon in her honor for the California delegation. Mitchell was Senate majority leader when Feinstein first went to the U.S. Senate and the two are longtime friends. Incidentally, both Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) and Supervisor **Bevan Dufty** managed to attend the Feinstein luncheon before boarding planes back to Sacramento and San Francisco, respectively. Sources tell me that both the veteran Senator Feinstein and San Francisco's new young mayor, **Gavin Newsom**, are getting the political rock-star treatment everywhere they appear this week in Boston.

And how was your week? ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Net hookup goes awry

by Jane Warner

Beck's Motorlodge, 2222 Market Street, July 24, 1:15 a.m.: A man met another man over the Internet and the two agreed to meet in the Castro. The next day, they met at a local bar and then they met a third man on the street. The trio decided to continue their party at Beck's Motorlodge. Once in their room, the first man went to the bathroom. When he returned, his new Internet buddy was gone and so was his wallet. The third man, who was still in the room, denied any knowledge of the theft, stating the suspect told him he was just going to the store. The suspect—described as African American, 25-30 years old, 5 feet 8 inches tall, 155 pounds, and wearing a black T-shirt and baggy jeans—never returned. The victim filed a report with police.

Hit and run

18th and Dolores streets, July 25, 9:44 a.m.: Annoyed by a car alarm, a woman looked out her window and saw the offending vehicle with a man inside climbing over the

front seat. "Is that your car?" the woman yelled down. "No," the man answered, "is it yours?" He then got out and started walking toward Dolores Park. Knowing there had been a lot of car break-ins the last couple of weeks, the woman called police. Officers responded to the area and found the suspect standing in front of the Dolores Park Café. "You guys already stopped me," the man said, as he handed officers a SFPD release form. An officer looked at the form and ran a check, finding the man had been detained earlier that same morning on an investigation of another car break-in on Florida Street. The suspect had been issued a release form because the owner of the burglarized car couldn't be located. This time, however, officers did locate the owner, who inspected her car and reported two pairs of sunglasses missing from the glove box. The officers searched the detained man and found the sunglasses in-

side his coat pocket. The alleged thief, 33, was taken to Mission Station and booked accordingly.

Gunnin' for a ride

Fronting Sparky's, 242 Church Street, July 26, 11 p.m.: A cabbie picked up a man on the corner of Duncan and Church. As they drove past 15th Street, the cabbie looked in his rearview mirror and was shocked to see that his passenger had placed a handgun on the seat beside him. Fearing for his life, the cabbie began to talk to the suspect, telling him to take it easy. The

suspect, who appeared intoxicated, didn't say anything or attempt to pick up the gun. As the cab neared Sparky's diner on Church Street, the cabbie slammed on the brakes, jumped out of the vehicle, and ran into the restaurant, telling the waiter to call 911. The suspect, described as a white male in his 20s, wearing a T-shirt and blue jeans, got out of the car and was last seen by witnesses walking westbound on 15th Street. Responding police searched the area and found the suspect hiding between parked cars on 14th and Landers. The suspect was taken into custody at gunpoint. During a search of his clothing, a loaded .38 caliber handgun was found tucked in his waistband. The man, 23, was taken to Mission Station and booked for possession of a firearm. ▼



Crime & Punishment



Positive Resource Center Executive Director Brett Andrews, right, shakes hands with Supervisor Jake McGoldrick at a news conference earlier this month announcing the restoration of AIDS funding. In the background are Mayor Gavin Newsom, Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval, and Shanti Executive Director Hywel Sims.

AIDS agencies welcome funding reprieve

by Matthew S. Bajko

Headling off what could have been devastating funding cuts, city officials spared three AIDS agencies from the budget ax. It was welcome news to the agencies' leaders, who thanked several supervisors for securing the funds.

"I want to thank Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval for his leadership of the budget committee and his shared commitment—along with Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly and Bevan Duffy—to the HIV community in these challenging times," said Brett Andrews, the executive director of Positive Resource Center.

On Tuesday, July 27 the supervisors gave their final approval to the city's budget, which added back \$28 million in cuts suggested by Mayor Gavin Newsom to close a projected \$307 million deficit. Out of \$11 million added back to the city's health department budget, \$2.6 million is earmarked for AIDS and HIV ser-

vices.

"We heard the voices and pleas of people in the AIDS community and we listened," said Sandoval at a press conference earlier this month in announcing the budget restorations.

Andrews said the \$140,000 in restored city funding to PRC will net the agency \$420,000 due to federal matching funds. The money will allow the agency to serve 400 people this year.

"It is flat line funding from last year but we are certainly happy and pleased to take that," said Andrews.

The city's support of the agency also strengthens PRC's negotiating stance for additional funding from the state.

"We are in discussions with the state Department of Rehabilitation to move into a cooperative agreement," explained Andrews.

At Shanti, Executive Director Hywel Sims said the agency would receive \$400,000 due to the add-back in city funds. The money will help it offer emotional support

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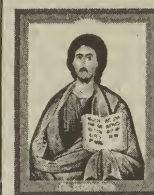
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LGBT scholarship fund celebrates milestones

by Zak Szymanski

The Point Foundation, the first and largest nationwide LGBT scholarship fund, made two major announcements this month. It has just awarded \$500,000 worth of college scholarships to 25 young LGBT people across the United States. And it has hired Vance Lancaster, the former director of strategic giving at the Gill Foundation, as its new executive director.

With a distinguished academic background, experience in both for-profit and nonprofit corporations, and extensive service to the LGBT community, Lancaster was the perfect choice to lead the organization in its mission to educate and empower tomorrow's LGBT leaders, Point Foundation officials said.

"The foundation has seen such rapid growth since it began just three years ago, and we realized that we needed someone with Vance's unique blend of development skills and academic experience as we continue to be successful in the future," said Bruce Lindstrom, founder and chairman of the Point Foundation. "We're thrilled to have Vance on board."

Lancaster's annual salary is \$100,000. The foundation's annual budget was \$1.3 million for its just-completed fiscal year.

Lindstrom added that just mentioning Lancaster's name has been an asset; when philanthropist Michael Huffington learned that Lancaster had been selected as executive director, he

pledged a \$100,000 matching grant to the foundation.

For Lancaster, too, the move has apparently been a good one.

"I'm delighted to join the foundation during this period of tremendous growth and opportunity," said Lancaster. "The Point Foundation is truly making a difference in the lives of students who need our support to become leaders in both the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and in their own communities."

Recipients of Point Foundation scholarships are "students of distinction" who represent the diversity of the community. This year, they include several California natives or students: Cris Beam, a San Francisco native, who is pursuing her MFA in journalism and nonfiction writing at Columbia University; Matthew Cardinale, who is pursuing his master's

degree in sociology at the University of California at Irvine; John Downey Jr., a student at Stanford Medical School; Zach Zyskowski, who is working on his undergraduate degree in communications at the University of California at Los Angeles; and Alyn Libman, a transgender man raised in Los Angeles now working on a degree in political science and sociology at the University of California at Berkeley.

Libman is the first female-to-male recipient of the scholarship. Growing up in Los Angeles as a gender non-conforming child, Libman was harassed, stigmatized and ostracized by peers and teachers. Nevertheless he had the strength to be involved in a variety of activist projects, serving as a state organizer for the "Day of Silence" project, and testifying in front of the California state Senate about youth and transgender

issues. At Berkeley, he was the only freshman accepted into the Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity. He plans to be a civil rights attorney and eventually work for the American Civil Liberties Union or Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, he said.

"My career has taught me leadership skills, discipline and commitment," said Libman of his award. "I chose to be a leader because nobody else was going to fight my battles for me."

The Point Foundation serves as "a lifeline," according to Lancaster, and is "the only organization that covers the cost of tuition, books, supplies, room and board, transportation, and living expenses in a substantial manner."

The average award is \$14,000.

"Because of homophobia and transphobia in their hometowns, and often within their own families, Point scholars lack access to

traditional sources of college funding," said Lancaster.

Point scholars receive not just money but mentors; they are matched with professionals who provide personal support and guidance. For those whose pasts include rejection, poverty, and family abandonment, the opportunities for networking can provide a vision for the future.

Since its founding, the Point Foundation has invested more than \$1 million in scholarships, and it plans to double the number of awardees next year, to 50 students. The foundation pledges that every dollar donated goes to scholarships, because the founders, the board of directors, and an anonymous donor cover all the administrative costs.

For more information on this year's Point scholars, or to make a donation, visit www.thepointfoundation.org. ▽

'Trans panic'

◀ page 3

the time."

Which is why Daley believes there is somewhat of an anti-trans-panic precedent already in existence: it's called hate crimes legislation. The Araujo case was seemingly incongruous to existing state law, which designates crimes as even more serious when they are committed on the basis of a victim's sexual orientation or gender identity. Araujo's alleged killers, meanwhile, were claiming

her transgender status as the very reason for their violence.

"As a state, we've already said bias crimes will enhance sentences, not mitigate them," said Daley. "I don't believe it is a fair trial if it incorporates the very bias that motivated the crime in the first place."

Change the law?

Former San Francisco prosecutor Jim Hammer agrees, and has joined Daley in the effort to prohibit gay- and trans-panic defenses from reducing the charges, convictions, or sentences in crim-

inal proceedings.

The openly gay Hammer — who is perhaps best known for securing convictions against the owners of the vicious dogs that attacked and killed victim Diane Whipple in 2001 — points to another precedent when it comes to prohibiting certain defenses: the California Legislature's removal of the "diminished capacity" defense in response to Dan White's 1979 manslaughter conviction for the shooting deaths of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and openly gay Supervisor Harvey Milk. White's depression, combined with his mass consumption of high-sugar foods, caused his instability when he entered City Hall in 1978 with a gun and headed for the offices of his political opponents, his defense team argued, in what later became known as the "Twinkie defense."

"I think the appropriate response to the hung jury in the Araujo trial is to change the law," said Hammer, noting that the revision could follow the example of the White-inspired "diminished capacity" prohibition, which precluded experts from declaring a person generally incapable, but did not rule out "diminished actuality" which allows a defendant to claim his own state of mind during the moment of the crime.

One way to make trans-panic evidence inadmissible without compromising a fair trial, said Hammer, is to prohibit expert testimony that introduces or lends credence to the concept. The Araujo trial featured a psychologist's testimony that heterosexual males could be expected to react with violence toward a transgender partner, and purported experts always tend to "give a nice sheen to prejudice. They give it that professional gloss," said Hammer, who added that even if a young man's heterosexuality was understandably threatened by a transgender person, "what does that have to do with making a case for murder?"

Another way to diminish the panic defense is to codify it within statewide jury instructions that forbid a jury from allowing it to mitigate the seriousness of a crime.

Requesting anonymity, one openly LGBT defense attorney in the Bay Area said that while he is personally offended by gay-panic defenses, he answers to an ethical duty to build the best case for his client, even if his client claims homophobic reasons for a crime.

But changing the law, said

Hammer, would take that ethical question out of the equation, while still allowing defendants to describe their state of mind and claim they did not act with premeditation. But the victim herself would not have been on trial if these guidelines existed for the Araujo trial.

"The effect of letting the panic defense into evidence sends a signal to society that this happens and you can argue that it's the fault of the transgender person, that somehow it's less serious because the victim was transgender," said Hammer. "It plays into the fear and discomfort of jurors who probably don't know a transgender person and it causes juries to sympathize with the murderers instead of the victims."

On the flipside, he said, if panic defenses were forbidden, "then we send a message to society that we don't care if the victims were transgender or gay, we're not going to treat the crime differently."

Daley emphasized that during the Araujo trial, attorneys went beyond creating a defense they hoped would pass the "heat of the moment" test, and with the tactics they were allowed to use, "were not simply relying on the alleged beliefs of their clients, they were raising questions about Gwen's conduct and about how transgender people are supposed to operate in our society," he said, noting that Araujo's reported sexuality and flirtatiousness were treated as crimes. Interestingly, the prosecution never reciprocated by emphasizing that a group of men had sought out sex with an underage woman and later sexually assaulted her to determine her genitals.

"There should never again be a trial where somebody comes in and says 'I killed so-and-so because they were a transgender person and I can still say I didn't plan it, because I was upset,'" said Hammer.

In strategizing their next steps, said Daley, advocates are going to take defense attorney concerns into consideration and make sure that whatever is written still "allows them to do their job." Including other groups in the legislation — those covered by existing hate crimes legislation, for instance — might also be an approach that could benefit a greater number of people, like victims of rape or racially motivated crimes.

Hammer said he knows firsthand that education (and affirming legislation) pays off: while he was prosecuting the dog mauling

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TRAVEL

Unique gay scene in New York City

by Ed Walsh

It can be so segmented here that if you want to find a bar with tall blond men with cowboy hats and boots you can find one," answered Al Ridolfo, manager of Chelsea Pines Inn in Manhattan, when asked about what's unique about New York's gay scene.

That uniqueness and the excitement of being in the city that never sleeps continues to be a big draw for LGBT tourists. The city is experiencing a renaissance to its tourism industry that was devastated by the September 11 terrorist attacks and is looking forward to being showcased during the Republican convention next month. Those in the city's hospitality industry have high hopes that this summer will herald a return to the business they saw before 9/11. Tourism is New York's number one industry, as it is in San Francisco, and gay tourists account for a big bite of the Big Apple's tourist dollar.

Besides the wide variety of gay nightclubs, history is part of what makes New York different from other destinations popular with gay travelers. The city is celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Stonewall riots this summer. The Stonewall Inn, in the Greenwich Village neighborhood, still draws a steady stream of LGBT tourists from all over the world.

But Stonewall is not the first gay bar in New York. The nearby Julius bar is credited with that



Statue of two men in Sheridan Square, near the Stonewall Inn bar.

honor. It was a former Depression-era speakeasy that gradually evolved into a gay bar in the 1960s. Part of *Boys in the Band* was filmed there. Julius also made history in 1966. That's when, in the presence of the New York press, Dick Leitch, the president of the Mattachine Society, announced he was homosexual to the bartender and asked for a drink. To comply with the New York Liquor Authority, the bartender refused. Leitch planned to sue to get the law overturned. Instead, the authority agreed to voluntarily rescind the rule after lawyers told officials they had little chance of winning in court.

Stonewall, located at 53 Christopher Street (a.k.a.

Stonewall Place), and Julius at 159 West 10th Street are two of the must-see stops for tourists interested in gay history.

Nightlife

New York's two major gay entertainment publications, *Next* and *HX*, are devoted to publishing running lists of the ever-changing gay club scene. There are a handful of bathhouses in Manhattan and more than three dozen sex clubs, several catering exclusively to men of color; others are targeted toward various fetishes or age groups. The Wall Street Sauna bathhouse, however, was ordered shut down by an appeals court earlier this month after city health department inspectors observed

numerous instances of unsafe sex in the club since June 2003.

Most of the older, established clubs are in the Greenwich Village area, south of 14th Street and west of Broadway. Many of the newer clubs are in the neighboring Chelsea District, north of the Village, along 8th Avenue.

The Hell's Kitchen area, near 8th, 9th, and 10th avenues between West 39th and West 55th streets is also home to a number of gay clubs and a growing gay residential area.

The landmark church turned disco, Avalon, on 6th Avenue at W. 20th Street, remains a popular gay dance spot Sunday nights. At Roxy, 515 W. 18th Street, between 10th and 11th avenues, still packs them in on Saturday nights.

Popular lesbian bars include Henrietta Hudson, located at 438 Hudson Street, and Crazy Nanny's at 21 7th Avenue.

Where to stay

The city has two excellent gay bed and breakfasts: Chelsea Pines Inn at 317 West 14th Street and the Colonial House Inn at 318 West 22nd Street. Room rates range from \$80 to \$140, a bargain by New York standards.

The Chelsea Pines is perfectly situated on the border of the Greenwich Village and Chelsea neighborhoods in the heart of gay New York and is a great choice for LGBT travelers. Although most of its visitors are gay men, lesbians are welcomed. Each of the 25 guest rooms is dedicated to a star from the Golden Age of Holly-

wood. Coffee and cookies are served 24 hours in the lounge that opens into an indoor and outdoor patio.

The Colonial House is in the heart of the gay Chelsea district, within easy walking distance of some of the city's hottest gay clubs. It has 20 units. Like the Chelsea Pines, it has an indoor lounge with free coffee 24 hours. It also has a rooftop deck for sunbathing and socializing.

About 80 percent of its clients are gay men, but it welcomes everyone, including those looking for a break from a generic hotel experience.

If you like to travel in high style, you'll have plenty to choose from in New York but expect to shell, a minimum of \$250 a night. Among the large gay-friendly ho-

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For more information

HX magazine: www.hx.com

Next magazine:

www.nextmagazine.net

Chelsea Pines Inn, includes

gay guide: www.chelseapinesinn.com

NYC & Company, the city's

official tourism marketing

organization:

www.nycvisit.com or (212)

484-1200. Call or e-mail for

a free guide.

New York City Gay and Les-

bian Center: www.gaycenter.org or (212) 620-7310.

'Tree' keeps Stonewall rooted in history

by Ed Walsh

Stonewall. He never gets tired of talking about it. And he gets asked about it a lot.

His name is Tree. He is a self-proclaimed "bartender extraordinaire" who holds court in New York's landmark Stonewall Inn bar Thursdays through Sundays from 5 to 10 p.m. He was there during the 1969 riots outside the Stonewall that are credited with jump-starting the then-fledgling gay rights struggle.

Stonewall Inn is a frequent stop of gay tourists who visit the city.

"If I had a dollar for every tourist who came in here to take pictures, I'd be a millionaire," Tree told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Far from being jaded, Tree, 65, is delighted to share stories and his perspective on the state of gay rights today.

He and his fellow bartender, Johnny Pool, are the two employees currently working at Stonewall who were also there during the riots. Pool now spends his summers bartending on Fire Island, leaving Tree to entertain visitors and locals alike with stories of old gay New York.

Journalists from around the world have interviewed Tree. He talked extensively with David



Stonewall bartender Tree

Carter, author of the recently released book, *Stonewall: The Riots that Sparked a Gay Revolution*. He says the book does an excellent job of distilling the truth of what really happened at the bar 35 years ago.

And yes, he said, Tree is really his real name.

"I'm like Madonna and Cher," the man with one name told the *B.A.R.* When pressed on how he got the name, Tree shaded the truth, "It's because I get taller when I lay down."

Tree had the night of the Stonewall riots off from work. He had recently quit his bartender job at Stonewall and was working at

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Gay Peace Corps members serve in silence

by Matthew S. Bajko

Being sent to some of the world's most desolate, rural or war-torn areas as a Peace Corps volunteer is challenging enough. For gays and lesbians, they face the additional difficulty of having to hide their sexuality.

While the federal volunteer agency does not discriminate based on sexual orientation, it does warn lesbian, gay, and bisexual applicants that life in the Peace Corps will require a return to the closet. Many countries where Peace Corps volunteers are sent outlaw homosexuality, and one's life can be in danger if villagers learn a volunteer is attracted to the same sex.

"We will never tell you not to come out in your village but you are told what could happen if you do," said Kate Kuykendall, an out lesbian who served in China from 1999 to 2001. She now works as a community recruiter for the Peace Corps' San Francisco office.

Despite these realities, many LGBT people opt to serve overseas. "I wasn't going to let my sexuality stop me from doing something I wanted to do. I wanted to have that challenge and that experience. It's two years of your life. It's nothing," said Tori Wilson, who served in Jamaica from 1998 to 2001, and is partners with Kuykendall.

She said her experience taught her that "I am more than just my sexuality."

By 2007, the Peace Corps is aiming to double its number of volunteers serving worldwide to



From left: Former Peace Corps volunteers Michael Leonard, Michael Michel, Tori Wilson, and Timothy Mah.

14,000. Out of the 7,000 Americans serving, more than 10 percent are Californians, with 355 from the Bay Area.

In fact, the agency's top producer of corps volunteers is the University of California at Berkeley, which has produced more than 3,000 corps members since the agency began in 1961.

With the Bay Area's reputation as a mecca for gays and lesbians, it is no surprise many queer people opt for service in the corps. Gay corps veterans say LGBT people are well suited for volunteer service, having already experienced being on the outside of mainstream society and living in a separate cultural dynamic.

They have formed their own alumni organization, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Returned Peace

Corps Volunteer Association, with the aim of promoting Peace Corps ideals as well as acceptance of gays and lesbians throughout the world. They also serve as mentors for those LGBT people thinking of joining the corps.

It is not always easy. As Eric Shea, a current gay volunteer in Kenya, writes in the August issue of the gay alumni group's newsletter, it requires accepting clear boundaries between being a gay person and a corps member.

"I lead a double life as a volunteer. There's me in the organization: active and out, pushing Peace Corps Kenya to embrace all volunteers," writes Shea. "And there's me at my work site: passive and willing to assimilate, believing that I need to be led by the people with whom I live."

"It is tough to be a volunteer, but to be a gay volunteer is tougher," adds Shea.

At a July 20 talk sponsored by the Commonwealth Club, Wilson and other returning gay Peace Corps volunteers talked about how they reconciled serving in silence after living openly in the Bay Area as a gay man or woman.

Only in Jamaica's major cities could gays feel safe, said Wilson. "Jamaica is very homophobic," she said.

Most of the gay men there are placed in Kingston, the country's capital, where they are safe to be themselves, she said. The ones who protest and request to be sent to a village, often quickly return to the city, said Wilson.

"In the countryside there is no gay community, no connection, no

understanding, just pure hostility" to homosexuality, she said. "It was really scary in the beginning. If my community knew, there would be no way I could be there anymore. They would have had to move me to another part of the island."

"There is absolutely no gay scene there," said Timothy Mah of the African state The Gambia, where he volunteered from 2001 to 2003. "There was a coup in 1996. Before that there was an underground scene there but it was crushed by the government. There is no acknowledgment of homosexuality in the rural areas."

Mah, who never disclosed his sexuality to his peers in the village he lived in, said the people of The Gambia in the larger cities see tourists who are gay, but do not believe their own people could be homosexuals.

"To them homosexuality is something brought in by foreigners," he said.

While serving in Bulgaria from 2000 to 2002, and in East Timor in 2003, Michael Michel said some people he met suspected he was gay, but it was never openly discussed.

"In Bulgaria we didn't talk about it. I sensed there was some hostility but it was never verbalized," said Michel. "I am sure people thought it of me."

He acknowledged that in both countries, though, same-sex couples were living in relative safety.

"In both countries other Peace Corps volunteers knew of gay couples living freely and openly. In both towns they were accepted," he said. "I don't know how it

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Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. There have been a few

reports of suicide but it is not known if SUSTIVA (efavirenz) was the cause. Rash is another common side effect. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. If you or your child develop a rash, call your doctor right away.

Women should not become pregnant or breastfeed while taking SUSTIVA.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime. Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.



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Please see important information about SUSTIVA on the next page.

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PATIENT INFORMATION

SUSTIVA® (sus-TEE-vah)
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capsules and tablets**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.**

Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz). Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?**General Information**

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.

- Taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz) at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200-mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

- **Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- **Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- **have problems with your liver or have hepatitis.** Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- **have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**
- **have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures** [for example, Dilantin® (phenytoin), Tegretol® (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital]. Your doctor may want to check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.

- tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz) with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
 - Propulsid® (cisapride)
 - Versed® (midazolam)
 - Halcion® (triazolam)
 - Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)
- The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA (efavirenz):

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir)
- Methadone
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Zolof® (sertraline)

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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Community lends support to Castro housing project

by Matthew S. Bajko

Each Monday night the six formerly homeless young people in the Castro Youth Housing Initiative gather for dinner together. The evenings, organized by Patrick Mulcahey, are more a workshop on life skills than a mere supper.

"I realized they had never paid rent, never had a telephone, never shopped for groceries, never cooked a meal. All these things we take for granted when we live indoors. On Mondays we work on life skills like those," said Mulcahey.

Since November, Mulcahey, a four-time Emmy winner and former writer of *The Guiding Light* and *General Hospital* television soap operas, has worked with Supervisor Bevan Dufty and a volunteer group of residents, merchants, city officials, and nonprofit agency staff to launch the housing project.

"It has been just wonderful. It has really been a joy to be involved," said Mulcahey, who started the weekly Wednesday night suppers for homeless youth at Most Holy Redeemer Church three years ago. "The youth have only been inside a little over three months and you would not believe what a change it has made."

The early success of the program, said Mulcahey, proves that when given a roof over their heads, homeless youth can begin to turn their lives around.

"We have always known that is the way it has got to be. The three fundamental human requirements every school kid learns is food, clothing, and not psychological or medical care, but shelter," he said. "Otherwise you can't work with people in a meaningful way because they don't have their needs met."

Seeking support

From the beginning, Dufty and the project's boosters have turned to the community for help. Along with parishioners of Most Holy Redeemer, who have volunteered to be mentors and assist the youth in filling out job applications and open bank accounts, numerous individuals have donated furniture, like a baby crib and desk, to the residents.

Several local businesses have also made donations. Gold's Gym has donated memberships for the youth; Sit and Spin is giving discounts so they can wash their clothes; Nancy Boy has given personal hygiene products; and Small

Fry's in Noe Valley is organizing a baby shower for Jessica Washburn, who just gave birth to a baby boy.

The project's supporters argue that by ensuring the project's viability the community is investing in its future.

"The gay youth are going to be the next leaders of our community, the next generation, and I think it is beneficial to the community to help and support and take care of them now," said Lisa Frazer, the Castro's beat cop who also helped to launch the project. "We need to help them be productive adult human beings who later on can take care of the community instead of letting them fall to the wayside."

The effort mirrors how the gay community rallied around those infected with HIV and created numerous AIDS services, said Mulcahey. As with recent efforts to meet the needs of aging LGBT people, he said the community also has to lend a helping hand to its youth.

"When you call yourselves a community it means a lot of things. You take care of your sick, your elderly, and your young," he said. "We have done a pretty good job in a couple of those departments but we haven't done a good job of taking care of our young people. We have to embrace these young people who come to us from all over the country. This is their home, their community."

The collaborative aspect of the project itself is unique, said Sheryl Adams, director of HIV services at Larkin Street Youth Services, who has taken a lead role in overseeing the initiative. Along with community volunteers, the health department's AIDS office, Special Programs for Youth, and Community Health Programs for Youth, as well as Larkin Street and Dimensions, have all been donating their services to support the project.

"There are a lot of housing programs but I have not heard of one with this much of a community collaboration and designed this way," said Adams. "We are targeting the youth who want to live in the Castro. Obviously it is queer focused but not exclusive."

Unlike other housing programs, there is no time limitation to one's length of stay. Though the hope is that when the youth turn 25, they will be able to move into their own housing, and in turn, allow another youth to move off the streets.

"The goal is they will get on their feet, address their issues, and move on to permanent housing."

the Unruh Civil Rights Act, the Unfair Business Practices Act, and the Consumer Legal Remedies Act; breach of contract; and fraud.

The complaint seeks actual, special, and punitive damages. Additionally, on behalf of the general public, the plaintiffs are seeking an injunction "which would require Trip Assured to cease its deceptive advertising and marketing practices and to return all profits wrongfully obtained from its customers who relied on its misleading representations when purchasing travel insurance," according to a statement.

Trip Assured could not be reached for comment by press time. ▼

Either shared housing or their own apartment before their 25th birthday. It gives them a long enough time to do this," said Adams.

With additional monetary support, the project's boosters hope to expand the number of slots by this fall. The mayor's office estimates that 4,000 youth, those under the age of 24, are living on the city's streets.

"The need is huge," said Adams, who noted while there is no waiting list for the project, there are youth who have already expressed an interest in being selected for any rooms that open up. "There are not enough housing programs available for young people. We are aware of a number of young people interested in the project."

Money raised

Dufty has been able to secure several large donations, including \$5,000 each from two anonymous donors, \$10,000 from the AIDS office, and \$25,000 from the Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation, to keep the project alive. He also wrangled \$8,000 for the project during the city's budget talks. The money is part of the Department of Human Services budget.

"I am gratified foundations and the Board of Supervisors see the merits of expanding the program," said Dufty.

Edward Carlson, the substance abuse program officer for the Schwab Foundation, said the Castro project fits in with the foundation's plan to create more residential treatment beds in the Bay Area for adolescents with substance abuse issues.

From the beginning, Dufty advocated that the project should not require participants to be clean and sober. Those were not the youth who needed the most help, he argued. At least four of the six project participants have struggled with substance use in the past and most are now maintaining their sobriety.

"We consider adolescent substance abuse treatment services at a crisis in California," said Carlson. "In the Bay Area there are barely 200 residential beds. Our goal is to expand it by 100 in two years."

The Schwab funding for the Castro project, however, is meant as a bridge loan, explained Carlson, and not as ongoing support.

"We are more in a position to fund gaps in services. Right now Bevan and the county are working on trying to fund it long-term," he said. "I think it is a good unique program and Larkin Street is in a good position to move it along."

Adams said there is enough funding at the moment "to sustain us at least at six youth and we could potentially expand."

It is estimated the cost per



Supervisor Bevan Dufty

client runs \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year between the subsidies and the services the project provides. Any monetary amount or small appliances like mini-fridges donated to the project are appreciated, said Adams.

"Even \$10 can go toward helping to buy the youth smaller items," said Adams.

Dufty continues to seek the community's support and recently was given \$250 from members of the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association.

"To the extent we raise more private money we can move more quickly to expand the number of participants," he said. "I think the thing we wanted to do is demonstrate to the neighborhood and merchants that we could run a quality program and I think we are doing that. We wanted to build upon a certain measure of success and we are ready to expand."

All donations should be sent to Larkin Street Youth Services at 1138 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. ▼

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Trip Assured

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tion of the trip.

Legally, said Murphy Pearson attorney Timothy J. Halloran, there is no contractual language stating that a reasonable expectation of cancellation is the basis for denying coverage. In fact, said Halloran, the opposite is true: Trip Assured markets its services to travelers who are elderly or handicapped, potentially playing into the vulnerabilities of such customers. Additionally, Kenneth Burgess, who had AIDS for 10 years, according to his partner, was in no way expected to die anytime soon.

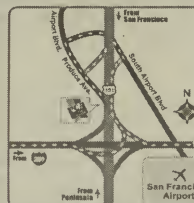
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AHF drops Abbott lawsuits

by Bob Roehr

The Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation announced on July 16 that it is dropping two lawsuits it brought against Abbott Laboratories for increasing the price of the AIDS drug Norvir (ritonavir) by 400 percent last December. In return, the company will provide drugs and diagnostic tests to AHF to treat 10,000 patients, principally at its clinics in Africa.

Many in the advocacy community called AHF's move a "sell-out." AHF has filed a series of patent infringement lawsuits against GlaxoSmithKline on the drug AZT, which some have characterized as blackmail to get the company to "donate" to AHF's African activities.

"We don't agree with the price increase, but at the same time, with this settlement, we'll be able to treat a whole lot of people," AHF general counsel Tom Myers told Reuters. "We thought it was a good outcome."

The key word was "we," in that AHF benefits directly, not the greater community of people living with AIDS, some activists said.

The health insurance giant Aetna filed a similar lawsuit against Abbott in May over the Norvir price increase. However, it mysteriously withdrew the lawsuit two days later. Some believe

that Abbott quietly agreed to give Aetna a price break or rebate on its AIDS drugs.

"This was a carefully orchestrated sell-out by AHF," said Thomas Gegeny, executive director of the Center for AIDS in Houston, in a statement released by the AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition, a broad national group of individuals and organizations involved in the fight against AIDS.

"As far as the HIV/AIDS community is concerned, the issue of Abbott's unprecedented price increase for Norvir is not settled, nor will it be settled until the price is lowered to its former value," Gegeny added.

"The behavior of both AHF and Abbott should come as no surprise on this matter," added ATAC member Martin Delaney, founder of Project Inform in San Francisco. "AHF has a history of bargaining for its own interests to the exclusion of those in the community as a whole."

"Abbott is simply taking advantage of the opportunity to buy off one avenue of criticism, without addressing the wider problems created by the price increase," Delaney added. "The net effect is that people are being forced, through the Norvir price increase, to fund AHF's programs — without their consent."

Abbott's sales rose by 14 percent in the second quarter of this year, paced by an 18 percent increase in Kaletra, its protease inhibitor coformulated with Norvir. AIDS advocates have claimed that the price increase for Norvir but not Kaletra was really a marketing ploy under taken to increase Kaletra's market share at the expense of other protease inhibitors.

Abbott's profits more than doubled in the second quarter of this year.

But the company faces ongoing class action lawsuits concerning its Norvir price increase, and the National Institutes of Health is considering whether or not to

begin proceedings to reclaim its patent rights related to Norvir under a never before used provision of the law.

Earlier this year, attorney Michael Stocker with the San Francisco law firm Berman, DeValerio, Pease, Tabacco, Burt & Pucillo filed the first class action lawsuit against Abbott.

Many AIDS physicians are continuing their boycott of Abbott over the price increase. They are refusing to let the company's sales agents visit their offices, declining to participate in Abbott's educational efforts, and where possible, prescribing alternative drugs. ▼

Gay sex clubs

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reportedly taken to private back booths and offered sexual favors for money. Since those raids, new conflicts have arisen between District Attorney Kamala Harris, the San Francisco Police Department, and now, the Department of Building Inspection. Harris has refused to prosecute the clubs' alleged prostitutes in part because women who work in sex clubs are also frequently victims of pimps and johns, none of whom police arrested along with the women, she said.

Additionally, upon learning how and where the prostitution

allegedly took place, Harris surmised that the private booths were probably not legal and declared that it was therefore up to DBI to "do its job" and identify and order removal of the illegal structures in these clubs.

That didn't go over well with building inspector Ken Harrington, who confronted Harris with a memo that he also leaked to the *San Francisco Chronicle* last week implying that gay establishments were receiving preferential treatment by her administration.

Harrington, acknowledging that Harris wanted DBI to force clubs to remove doors from booths where sexual activity may occur, said in his memo:

"I would like to know the following: Do you want us to attempt to get the doors removed from every booth in every sex club, be it straight or gay? If you want to limit your order to straight clubs only, do you want us to go after every door in every club, or only those clubs where there have been complaints?"

DBI did not return phone calls by press time, but Harrington's apparent perception of gay favoritism may have been influenced by the *Chronicle's* Phil Matier and Andrew Ross column the week before, which implied that the "numerous predominantly gay clubs in the city that also feature private booths where consensual and often anonymous sex takes place" would make it difficult for Harris to pursue the code violations in the clubs accused of prostitution.

"If the city goes after the strip clubs for illegal booths, they may also have to go after the gay sex clubs for building code violations — and in this town, that could be politically dicey," stated the column. "In fact, after the strip club busts, the gay clubs were inundating City Hall with worried calls."

Buzz Bense, owner of the sex club Eros on Market Street, said that Harrington's concerns would not affect his club, which has long been in compliance with regulations forbidding enclosed sex spaces.

And as far as the media gossip goes, "I thought it was interesting that Matier and Ross said the city was 'inundated' with calls from



San Francisco's Nob Hill Theatre caters to gay men.

gay sex clubs when there are only five of us," said Bense. "It seems to be a slight exaggeration."

Regularly operating male sex clubs include Eros, Blow Buddies, Mack, 333 Linden, and Power Exchange. The Nob Hill Adult Theatre offers live male shows, while other venues such as the Tearoom Theatre and the Circle J Club cater to gay men. Still other groups host monthly gay male sex parties as advertised.

It's unclear how Harrington, or other sources who inform the media, are even defining gay sex clubs. But as the city codes demonstrate, not all booths are illegal. And as the public will tell you, not every male space is a "gay" sex club patronized by gay men.

"There's a lot of inference going on," said Eros' Bense. "Could [Harrington] be referring to video booths? Certainly those are enclosed spaces and not regulated the way the clubs are."

An owner of a chain of adult video stores in the Bay Area who insisted on anonymity confirmed the presence of private movie-watching booths in his stores. But such backroom spaces are notorious for screening heterosexual

porn to mostly straight men. If a neighboring guy wants to lend a hand through a glory hole, then it's an added bonus, but it rarely if ever involves the exchange of money for sex. In fact, women are not admitted to the backroom specifically to avoid any resemblance to prostitution, which is supposedly the main motivation behind the current police crackdowns. The male prostitution trade simply does not play out the same way in public spaces, which community members like Bense attribute to, "a cultural difference. That's the difference between men and women."

Harris has said her main concern when prosecuting prostitution cases is that women are often victimized. Within the club environment, dancers are often charged a \$250 minimum stage fee, which they have to raise during each shift that they work. These women are then exploited in their efforts to make a living, according to sex worker advocates, who say that the illegal booths provide little protection from abusive pimps and johns. Other dancers, however, believed to be organized by club managers, have contradicted these advocates and attested to the safety of their work environments. Because the city cannot prosecute based upon these stories alone, "it keeps coming back to compliance," said Debbie Mesloh, spokeswoman for the DA's office.

It is unclear how many clubs are not currently in compliance with city requirements. What is even more unclear is the number of businesses in San Francisco considered by some to be "sex clubs" but considered under the law to be exempt from such regulations.

Regardless of the nuances, many agree that the same type of potentially abusive illegal activities are not occurring in all-male spaces, and it is the safety of the participants, rather than the sexual acts themselves, about which Harris's office is concerned. Nevertheless, as the DA's office awaits assessments around compliance, said Mesloh, she "wouldn't be surprised" if the police conduct more raids on spaces known for sexual activity. ▼



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'Unity'

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spokesman Mark Shields said he became concerned after Cho's manager told him that Cho's monologue would be an "hour and a half long, brutal" harangue of the Bush administration and "that if we weren't 100 percent behind it, we should just forget it."

"I wanted people to see and talk about the energizing size of the GLBT community," said Shields, "not about Margaret Cho's outrage. We didn't want to censor her or ask her to water down what she's doing."

The action prompted the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to withdraw from the event.

"We are dismayed that Margaret Cho has been disinvented to

perform at the LGBT Unity 2004 event," said a statement from NGLTF Executive Director Matt Foreman. "Throughout her career, Ms. Cho has been a staunch supporter of equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, has contributed her time and talent to dozens of LGBT fundraising events, and is much loved by our

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House passes Marriage Protection Act

by Bob Roehr

The U.S. House of Representatives Thursday, July 22 passed the Marriage Protection Act of 2004 by a vote of 233 to 194. The measure would strip federal courts of the authority to deal with issues concerning gay marriage. Opponents say it is unconstitutional and would set a dangerous precedent.

Social conservatives pressed for the bill and Republicans provided most of the votes in support of it. But 17 Republicans voted against it, which would have been enough to assure its defeat. The margin of victory, however, was provided by 27 Democrats who crossed party lines and voted for the measure.

The silver lining in this defeat is that it fell far short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass a constitutional amendment such as the Federal Marriage Amendment, which failed earlier this month in the Senate.

The MPA is a "court-stripping" measure introduced by Representative John Hostettler (R-Indiana) last October as a fall back position to the FMA. It would remove authority from federal courts to hear cases on the Defense of Marriage Act, which was passed in 1996. Plaintiffs could still seek relief in state courts.

Article II, Section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution deems that lower federal courts are the creation of Congress and, as such, Congress may limit their jurisdiction. The provision is a source of debate among legal scholars and Congress has almost completely avoided testing the limits of this authority in this area.

The debate

Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas) opened with a plea for civility during the debate. Perhaps he feared a display of homophobia on the part of its supporters that would alienate the American public. The vitriolic rhetoric was in fact toned down, but the intent of antigay animosity was not.

DeLay tied the concept of marriage to raising children and asserted, "The policy before us today would reaffirm the current national consensus on homosexual marriage by leaving it to the states and the American people the right to define marriage in this country."

"Marriage is under attack," argued Representative James Sensenbrenner (R-Wisconsin), chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who managed the Repub-

lican side of the floor debate. "What this bill will do is prevent a federal judge from exporting the decision of a divided court in a single state [Massachusetts] to the other states. ... We are restoring the federal system in an area that has always been conceded to be the province of the states."

"More than anything else, today's debate is about the politics of the national election," countered Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-New York), the floor manager for Democrats opposing the MPA. It was all about "taking time out to beat up on an unpopular minority."

"This debate is not really about gay marriage. ... It's about whether Congress can adopt unconstitutional legislation on any subject and protect that legislation from constitutional challenge by stripping the courts of the jurisdiction to consider any such challenge," Nadler said. "We have never done that before in our history, and we should not do that now."

"The very system of checks and balances is under attack with this bill," Nadler charged. It has the potential "to render the Bill of Rights meaningless. ... We are playing with fire with this bill, and that fire could destroy the nation that we love."

African American representatives played a prominent role in opposing the MPA, drawing upon the legacy of their struggle for civil rights.

Representative John Conyers (Michigan), the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, said, "This will be the only instance in the history of the Congress that we have totally precluded the federal courts from considering the constitutionality of federal legislation."

Conyers asked, "What would have happened had conservatives decided during the civil rights battles of the 1960s to just take the decisions away from the courts?"

"If it had not been for the federal courts, I would not be standing here today," said Representative John Lewis (D-Georgia), a veteran of civil rights battles. "Today it is gay marriage, tomorrow it will be something else."

The full power and grandeur of that movement filled Lewis's voice when he urged his colleagues, "Forget about politics, vote with your conscience, vote with your heart, with your soul, with your guts — do what is right and defeat this bill."

"Shame, shame, shame," Representative John Dingell (D-Michigan) said in decrying the

"extraordinary piece of arrogance" by the House in considering this legislation. "Can you imagine anything more shameful than telling an American citizen 'You can't go into court to have your concerns addressed?'"

"Every member of this body has taken a solemn oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," said Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (California). She called on members to honor that oath and oppose the bill. "It is nothing more than an attempt to amend the Constitution by a simple majority."

Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) castigated the arguments of MPA proponents. "This does not take the matter out of the courts, it takes the matter of constitutionality away from the United States Supreme Court and confers it on the 50 state supreme courts." He predicted that chaos would result.

He said all previous use of court-stripping provisions concerned administrative matters, not issues of constitutionality. The Congressional Research Service, in a report requested by Democrats, said it could find no precedent for Congress passing a law to limit federal courts from ruling on the constitutionality of another law.

"Once you establish this, it will be demanded with regard to everything else," said Frank. "This will become boilerplate. On issue after issue we will pass legislation and we will say, but it cannot be corrected by the Supreme Court."

Representative Rahm Emanuel (D-Illinois) noted that half of all marriages end in divorce. If we want to protect marriage, "Why don't we deny access to federal courts to divorcees?"

Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), the only open lesbian serving in Congress and a member of the Judiciary Committee, made the closing remarks in opposition to the MPA. She argued that it says, "You may not defend your constitutional rights in this court. You may not seek equal protection here. You may not petition your government for redress here. Today the 'you' is gay and lesbian American citizens, but who will be next?"

Reactions

The American Civil Liberties Union led much of the opposition to the MPA and was disappointed with the outcome.

"This unconstitutional bill violates the notion of equal protection by excluding an entire segment of Americans from ever hav-



NGLTF's Matt Foreman

ing their day in court," said lobbyist Christopher Anders. "By making gay and lesbian couples second-class citizens, House leaders are letting politics rise above the interests of the American people."

Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said, "In attacking both gay people and the historic role of courts, this bill clearly violates our Constitution and will never be allowed to stand. This entire debate is an obvious political ploy to continue trying to use gay couples' lives as political fodder."

Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, called it "a sad

day for all Americans, not just because the House passed a bill that seeks to deprive gay and lesbian Americans access to federal courts...[but] because 233 members of Congress ignored their oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States by voting in favor of a measure that is blatantly unconstitutional."

Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director Patrick Guerriero called it "an act of political desperation [by] the far right to undermine our constitutional protections in order to serve their narrow and divisive agenda."

"The reality is that the far right knows, after the embarrassing defeat they suffered in the Senate, that the appetite is not out there to amend our Constitution. So instead of amending the Constitution, they now seek to undermine it," Guerriero added.

"While some politicians push discrimination, American voters have no appetite for division," said Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "We will work to ensure that this measure is soundly rejected in the Senate."

James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, had praise for the vote. He asserted, "While this legislation will not protect marriage across the nation, it will prevent unelected rogue judges in federal courts from overturning the will of the people." ▼

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'Unity'

◀ previous page

community.

"Under these circumstances, we must regrettably withdraw our support for this event," Foreman said.

Participating organizations included the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and the National Stonewall Democrats.

On her official Web site, Cho said, "Although I don't believe it was the right decision, I am not angry with the HRC for withdrawing their invitation for me to perform. I will continue to support them, for we must remain united. Divided, we are of little use to each other. Unfortunately, I hear they have felt the destructive

power of division as a result of their actions. I regret any harm that may have been done to them, and to the important cause of democracy."

In a press release, lesbian activist and comedian Robin Tyler said she was appalled at the decision to disinvite Cho. She urged other performers to withdraw from the party's lineup. Tyler did not attend the protest.

Tyler's recently formed group, DontAmend.Com, also criticized Democratic nominee Senator John Kerry's (D-Massachusetts) support of an amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution that would ban gay marriage. Kerry is publicly opposed to such an amendment to the U.S. constitution, saying such matters should be left to the states. Kerry is opposed to gay marriage, but supports civil unions.

Andy Thayer, national action coordinator for DontAmend.com, criticized national gay groups for "politely downplaying" the response of prominent Democrats to the national gay marriage debate. As Thayer noted, U.S. Senator Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota), normally a staunch supporter of gay civil rights, said during floor debate over the Federal Marriage Amendment earlier this month that he and most South Dakotans believe marriage is between only one man and one woman, adding "In South Dakota, we've never had a single same-sex marriage and we won't have any."

"These attitudes," said Thayer, in a press release to reporters covering the convention, "are an insult to the humanity of every lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered person in this country." ▼

New York City

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tels is the W, with three locations in New York: two near Grand Central Station and a third in the heart of Times Square. As part of its outreach to the gay market, the chain ran a "pride package" last month that included breakfast and a gay travel book for visitors who stayed over Pride weekend.

Another gay-friendly splurge hotel is the all-suite RIGHA Royal in the Broadway Theater District. More moderately priced gay-friendly hotels include the Hampton and Sheraton Four Points hotels in the Chelsea District. Check out Priceline.com. Depending on demand, you may be able to get a high-end hotel for a fraction of its posted price. For example, the largest hotel in the city, the four-star Hilton New York and Towers at Rockefeller Center, sells its cheapest room for \$179, but you can get it on Priceline for as little as \$105.

Getting around

Don't even think of driving around in a car in Manhattan.

Traffic is horrendous and parking is even worse. The subway and cabs are your best bet. Subway fare is \$2. Unlike Muni, it doesn't run on a transfer system. If you plan on staying in New York more than three days, a \$21 pass good for unlimited rides for a week is your best bet. You can also get a one-day pass for \$7. You can buy a pass at any subway station.

The sights

If you're not familiar with New York, it's a challenge to get around on the subway or on foot to the city's many attractions. The Gray Line bus loop tour is a good option. For \$49, you can take four different bus loops over two days. Hop on and off the open-roof double-decker bus wherever you want.

One of the stops, the site of the World Trade Center towers, remains a stark and sobering memorial to 9/11 victims and a tribute to the city's cohesive and heroic response to the tragedy.

By the way, Greenwich Village is home to another moving tribute to 9/11 victims. "Tiles for America," on 7th Avenue and 11th Street, is the site of a chain-link



The Stonewall Inn bar, site of the famous 1969 riots.

fence decorated with hundreds of tiles dedicated to 9/11 victims. It's across the street from St. Vincent's Hospital, where many of the 9/11 injured were taken.

Be sure to stop off at the Empire State building for a literal overview of the city. A simulated aerial thrill ride over Manhattan on the second floor of the building will also give a good overview of the city.

Check out the city's official Convention and Visitor's Bureau Web Site for a listing of walking tours and detailed information on the city's most popular attractions. They'll also send you a

packet of information, including a subway map.

The eats

There is a countless variety of price ranges and selection of gay and gay-friendly restaurants in New York. Some bars, including the historic Stonewall and Julius bars, as well as the popular lesbian bar Henrietta Hudson, include bistros or cafes. You can easily spend well into three figures at some of the city's high-end restaurants. But you can also eat well on the cheap. This reporter ate most of his meals at the King Food Chinese takeout restaurant, across the

street from the Chelsea Pines, for about \$4 per meal. You can buy a pretzel or hot dog on the street for as little as \$1.

The shows

If you want tickets to the most popular Broadway shows including *Hairspray*, *The Producers*, and *Mamma Mia*, buy your tickets well in advance of your trip. For the less popular shows, TKTS on 47th Street at Broadway in Times Square will sell you tickets on the day of performance for up to half off. If the mainstream Broadway shows just aren't gay enough for you, check out *Naked Boys Singing*, playing at Theater Four at 424 W. 55th Street. It continues to pack 'em in with eight shows a week.

Getting there

Jet Blue has fares as cheap as \$99 one-way to JFK from the Oakland and San Jose airports. But check out some of the other carriers' fares. To compete with Jet Blue, many will give you comparable deals. Popular destinations like New York mean you'll have your choice of plenty of flights. That choice translates into lower fares.

Getting to and from JFK, the city's largest airport, has never been easier. For \$5, the AirTrain will take you to the subway where you can ride the A-Train into the heart of the gay neighborhoods of Greenwich Village and Chelsea. ▼



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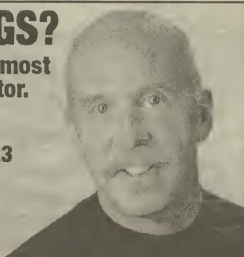
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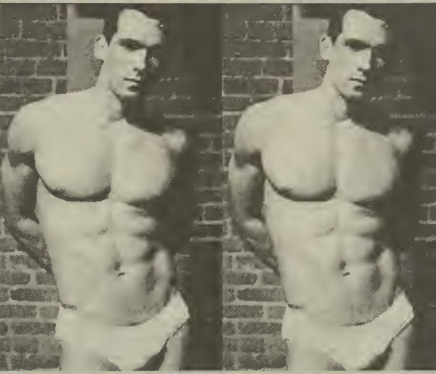
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Tree

◀ page 13

the nearby Chic-N-Ribs, a de facto gay restaurant.

"It was about 90 percent gay and 10 percent liars," he explained.

He hung out at Stonewall for a while and left.

"It was boring," he said, adding that he retreated to the Chic-N-Ribs.

When he heard all the commotion at Stonewall, however, he quickly returned to join in the rebellion and threw eggs at police.

When asked about the most common misconception about Stonewall, Tree truncated, "It had nothing to do with Judy Garland."

Garland died five days before Stonewall. Some have speculated that the riots were sparked in large part by participants being upset

by the popular entertainer's death. Tree also noted that the role of drag queens in the riots was more myth than reality. He said the rioters were a mixture of all varieties of gay men and lesbians, not just drag queens.

Tree said he is surprised and would never have predicted the progress made in the three-and-a-half decades since Stonewall.

"I figured in two or three years, it would all be over," adding that he thought things would then go back to the way they were before Stonewall.

He is disappointed that few young people are aware of the battles that he and his contemporaries had to fight. Part of the reason he enjoys talking about Stonewall is to educate people, particularly young people, about what it was like.

The advances made by gays in the 35 years since Stonewall, al-

though positive, are somewhat bittersweet for Tree because of AIDS and because of the loss of intimacy and family feeling in the lesbian and gay community.

"It was different. It was fun," he explained. "People knew each other."

Part of the Stonewall family, Tree noted, were Rock Hudson, Peter Allen, Truman Capote, and Andy Warhol.

"He [Warhol] used to draw on napkins. I threw them away. I wish I had them now," Tree said.

The bartender recently met San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom at an awards ceremony in New York.

"I predict Gavin Newsom is going to be president of the United States," Tree glowed. "Everything about him is Kennedy."

"I took a picture with him. It didn't come out. I am going to write him to get a picture." ▼

Peace Corps

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happened but it did."

Mah, who moved to San Francisco last December, said he lived a double life while serving in the Peace Corps.

"I lived two lives in The Gambia. In my community I was completely closeted but to the Peace Corps staff, they knew I was gay," he said. "I learned how to deal with my feelings. I would go in the closet in the village and have fun in the city. I realized just how progressive San Francisco is compared to the rest of the world."

Wilson, who lived in San Francisco before entering the corps, served with six other lesbians and paired off with one of the women. But they lived six hours apart and the distance proved too much of a strain. She soon found herself questioning her status as a lesbian after she became attracted to a Jamaican man.

"I began having feelings for a male friend. I had to ask myself 'Am I straight?' That was hard and strange," said Wilson, who ended

the relationship when she left Jamaica and met Kuykendall upon her return.

Mah said he had to dodge repeated questions about having a girlfriend and declined several offers of matrimony.

"There were plenty of teenage daughters offered to me in marriage. I said I had plenty of girlfriends in the city," he said.

For support, all three said they could turn to other Peace Corps staff and volunteers, whom they felt more comfortable coming out to about being gay. In Bulgaria, Michel said not only were there four gay men in his volunteer group, but the country's Peace Corps director was a gay man. He did meet a local gay man and visited some gay bars when in the country's larger cities.

"I was totally closeted in my town. It was really hard coming back here," he said of his return to Oakland last December. "I am not as comfortable. I am not in the same space as I was when I left."

Yet he has no regrets of his time served.

"It is possible I will do it again. It wasn't all good. It wasn't all rosy.

Nonetheless I'd still do it again," said Michel.

Mah said while he cherishes his experience, he would never do it again.

"It was the greatest two years. I did have a lot of troubles, a lot of problems, but it made the experience so great," he recounted.

For Shea, who went to Kenya to be an HIV education resource volunteer, it has meant confronting homophobia head on by coming out to the Kenyan staff members. He became part of a volunteer-run diversity and peer support group, educating the Kenyan staff about embracing diversity and answering their questions about homosexuality.

"I have climbed Kenya's mountains, swam in Kenya's water and seen Kenya's amazing wildlife, but all of that pales in comparison to the humanity I witnessed during that training session. From that day Peace Corps Kenya began a long transformation," he writes. ▼

For more information, call 1-800-424-8580 or visit www.peacecorps.gov.

OBITUARIES

Lowell K. Argersinger



ARGERSINGER, Lowell K. (aged 80 years, one month and 2 days) Passed away peacefully in the City of St. Francis with his adopted son, Peter Argersinger-Fries, at his side at 1:06 a.m.

on June 23, 2004. In the presence of close friends, he was cremated at 7:00 p.m. on June 25, 2004 through the good offices of the Neptune Society of Northern California.

Born on May 20, 1924 in Fargo, North Dakota and raised in Dassel, Minnesota and Minneapolis where he graduated from Dassel High School and the University of Minnesota. Lowell was an accomplished pianist and singer with an encyclopedic knowledge of American musical theatre.

Lowell moved to San Francisco in 1942 where he resided for the rest of his life. He served in the U.S. Army as Secretary to the Port Mortician at Fort Mason through the end of WW II. He toured and skated for two years with the original Ice Follies, taught English literature

at Galileo High School, served as Payroll/Personnel Officer for both the American Can Company and the Little Man-Cala Food Stores, and worked for over 20 years for the City's Department of Social Services as an administrator in its Adoptions and Federal AFDC Programs. During his 16 years of retirement, Lowell worked for the San Francisco Performing Arts Center Foundation as a very in-demand Events Manager at the War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building.

During his 62 years in The City, Lowell was an active, much respected and revered member of San Francisco's LGBT community.

Amongst the last of an old school of distinguished, proud, courteous, kind, generous, compassionate, always impeccably dressed, irrepressibly gregarious, sagacious and very entertainingly funny gentlemen, Lowell will be sorely missed by many whose lives he touched and enriched including his son, Peter, his cousins, Karin Broton of Elmhurst, Illinois, Dotty Thielen of Sacramento, and Rob Moe of Minneapolis, aunt Dorothy Moe of Sacramento, and nieces Cheryl and Kathy Merrifield of Los Angeles, and his many good friends in San Francisco and New York City.

Interment will ultimately be in the

historic 19th century Columbarium at One Loraine Court in San Francisco.

All of Lowell's relatives and many friends are invited to a memorial celebration of his life at the Veterans Building Green Room, 401 Van Ness Avenue, 2nd Floor, San Francisco on Thursday, August 26, 2004 at 5:30 p.m. Further inquiries to Peter at 415-621-0912.

"...and, when he shall die, Take him and cut him out in little stars, And he will make the face of heaven so fine That all the world will be in love with night, And pay no worship to the garish sun..." — William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, Act III, Scene III.

Juan B. Avalle-Arce

1953 — 2004



He pursued many interests here in

JB passed from this earth on Tuesday, July 6th at home in Los Angeles. He was born in Boston Mass., and grew up in both Europe and the U.S. before moving to San Francisco in 1981.

cluding working with the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, and was active in the Recovery community. He was instrumental in setting up a 12-step CMA program here for people addicted to crystal meth.

He also founded a successful business under the name "JB Phillips", which he operated until he moved to LA.

He was intelligent, soft-spoken, and well educated, and at the time of his passing was attending LACC on a full Bill Gates Millennium Scholarship.

He was always quick with a compliment and a smile, and could be found around town always wearing one of his requisite stylish hats!

He is survived by his loving family — Marta, Miren and Dakota, as well as Fadrique, Alex and Doyle, and many, many friends both here and in LA.

A celebration of his life is planned for mid-September in Los Angeles. Please write to alexavalle@sbcglobal.net or call (707) 235-3277 for more information.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Study: No evidence of 'superinfection' among highly exposed HIV+ couples

by John Iversen

In a study of 33 HIV-positive couples who engaged in frequent, unprotected sex, Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology researchers found no evidence of "superinfection," the sequential acquisition of multiple HIV variants.

"Our study found no evidence of superinfection among chronically infected seroconcordant couples," said lead investigator Dr. Robert Grant. "Many of these couples had evidence of drug resistance. Couples in stable partnerships with chronic HIV infections may be less susceptible to superinfection due to antiviral immune responses or viral interference. Animal studies suggest superinfection may be limited to a window period before the first infection becomes fully established."

HIV is a highly mutable virus encompassing two quite different types around the world, HIV-1 and HIV-2. Within those types there are variations known as subclades that are typically subdivided further into genetically differentiated strains. The epidemic in the U.S. consists almost entirely of a single subclade, HIV-1B, while HIV epidemics in other parts of the world involve a mix of subclades.

In the study, researchers investigated potential superinfection involving variations within HIV-1B. In 28 of the 33 couples, each participant was infected with a strain of HIV-1B that was genetically different than that of the person's partner, and the 28 couples were particularly relevant for these preliminary results.

The findings, presented at the XV International AIDS Conference in Bangkok on July 15, call into question the widely held perception that people with HIV-1 are highly susceptible to additional infection by HIV-1 variants that may be drug-resistant or more virulent, said Grant, a Gladstone scientist.

The study presentation was titled, "No superinfection among seroconcordant couples after

well-defined exposure."

The ongoing investigation, known as the Positive Partners study, began in 2001 and will eventually involve up to 200 HIV-1-infected couples. It is designed to investigate the incidence of superinfection in the HIV-positive population.

In addition to the couples cited in these preliminary findings, 30 individuals reporting multiple partners were included in the study. One of them, a participant who had recently developed HIV-1, presented with a highly divergent variation of the virus at a follow-up visit. "This one case demonstrates that people who have recently developed HIV-1 can harbor multiple viruses," noted Grant, who is also an assistant professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco.

"In contrast, superinfection has not appeared in people who have had the disease for many years, as our couples have," said Grant.

The possibility that superinfection may be restricted to a short window period after the development of HIV infection has been suggested by experimental studies in non-human primates. In addition, a recent mathematical analysis demonstrated that superinfection restricted to a short window period after seroconversion could account for the high prevalence of recombinant and dual infections observed in some parts of the world. This analysis has just been published in the July 23 issue of *AIDS*, the journal of the International AIDS Society, as a paper titled "HIV-1 Superinfection and Viral Diversity," by Grant and investigators Kimber L. Gross and Travis C. Porco of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

"Studies are warranted to better understand why superinfection among patients who have had HIV for a long time is rare," Grant explained. "The mechanisms preventing superinfection may include specific or non-specific antiviral immune responses or viral interference. If there is indeed an immune response at play, it's reasonable to investigate

the possibility of inducing that response with a vaccine that can be made available to high-risk HIV-negative individuals."

Couples in the Positive Partners study share a variety of characteristics: their infections predate their relationships with their current partners; they practice unprotected anal or vaginal sex with each other; and all live in the San Francisco Bay Area. The 30 singles reported unprotected intercourse with multiple HIV-positive partners. During the one-year course of participation in the study, all participants taken together reported a total of 3,725 episodes of unprotected intercourse with partners known to be HIV-positive.

One theme has become apparent to Grant over the course of the study. "It's clear that, to some degree, HIV-positive individuals prefer fellow HIV-positive partners, a phenomenon known as serosorting," he observed. "In this way, they avoid the risk of infecting HIV-negative partners."

"There have been no cases of superinfection causing drug resistance in chronically infected persons," Grant said. "One previous study found no evidence of superinfection as a cause of virological drug failure after more than 1,000 person years of observation. Although all forms of drug resistant HIV-1 have been transmitted to previously uninfected persons, the transmissibility of multidrug-resistant HIV-1 may be less than drug susceptible viruses."

"In my view, counseling of seroconcordant couples should be based on evidence rather than theoretical concerns regarding superinfection. Exaggerated concerns regarding superinfection are misleading, and could disrupt seroconcordant partnerships that are otherwise healthy and stable," added Grant.

It should be noted that the possibility of other sexually transmitted diseases still exists, he added. ▽

For more information, visit www.gladstone.ucsf.edu.



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Soccerific

◀ page 1

in New York City in 1980, and still competes. Named after the notoriously cruisy Ramble section of Central Park, the Ramblers, unlike their namesake, actually play in the open.

As more gay soccer clubs began forming, in 1992 the original members of these first clubs organized IGLFA, which today includes 20 women's teams and 30 men's teams.

The Ramblers continue that tradition, having won third place at last year's rainy - and muddy - Boston World Cup. Their men's B team also took the bronze at Sydney's Gay Games VI.

Alex Andres has been a goal tender with the Ramblers since 2001. Seeing the Ramblers march in New York City's Gay Pride Parade inspired Andres to return to soccer, which he had played as a teenager in Argentina.

Andres says he enjoys the high-pressure position of goalie. "Not everybody can play that position. You can make or break the game," he said. "One mistake can cost you what everyone's doing. But a few well-placed saves can really help the team. We also usually take the worst injuries, but it's part of the game."

The Ramblers will be sending two teams to this year's IGLFA World Cup, almost 30 players in all. As any New Yorker can tell you, the Big Apple is an international city. Said Andres, "Our roster includes players from over a dozen different nations."

Although the San Francisco location almost ensures good weather, Andres said that "the rain and mud were the fun part" of last year's tournament.

Local talent

A World Cup host committee member and a six-year Spikes player, Patrick Johnson is looking forward to welcoming the athletes from Canada, Japan, and across the United States.

Johnston started playing soccer at age 7. With 25 years of experience, he said that many adult players may not be as competitive as he is, and are simply "looking for exercise, to be on a team sport, and to make friends."

The Spikes themselves have a regal history of victories at previous gay soccer events, including three gold medals at the Atlanta Army Tournament, and two bronzes and a silver medal from previous IGLFA World Cups.

The Spikes have been holding benefits over the past several months, including the annual Miss Spikes Universe pageant, held July 17 at the LGBT Community Center. Johnston called it "a drag show where members of the Spikes pulled out their alter egos" (his own being Miss St. Ignatius, a naughty Catholic school girl). The festive event was a hilarious contrast to the serious soccer to be played this coming week.

Round-robin play will occur during the first four days and playoff competition will occur during the last two days. Games take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with no games on Friday, August



Paul Dessereau, left, blocks a kick at a recent Spikes match in Marin.

6, and the final taking place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 7.

Social events in between matches will include visits to local bars, opening and closing parties, an awards ceremony, and attendance at the SF Giants-Cincinnati Reds baseball game August 3 at SBC Park.

Reaching out

Women's teams from the Bay Area include players from the Golden Gate Women's Soccer League. The tournament's outreach also includes financial aid for female soccer players.

Karen Opp, who's helped bring together three women's teams in San Francisco, noted the increase in women's participation, from four teams last year to seven this year. Even so, "It's really tough to keep women's teams together for these traveling tournaments," she added.

Previous IGLFA World Cups have mostly been held in U.S. cities, with the exception of Berlin and Cologne. The dearth of European teams at this year's IGLFA

may be due to the EuroGames July 24 to August 1, where hundreds of soccer players will be among over 8,000 participants at Munich's games.

Not that there hasn't been enough outreach from the World Cup organizers; the Web site offers contact e-mails in nine languages.

Riki Inamura of Kyoto is one of nine Japanese players flying in for the tournament, including six from Tokyo and two from Osaka. He says sports in Japan have expanded in the queer communities in Kyoto and Tokyo.

"Getting sports groups together is getting easier, but it took me so long to organize the team," he said. "I needed to combine three gay soccer teams (all the gay soccer teams that I know in Japan)."

When asked if being gay has had an effect on his playing, Inamura said, "I started enjoying soccer long before I started enjoying sleeping with guys!"

Inamura also enjoys the universal camaraderie of soccer. "I do not need to be tall or big, and I make many friends wherever I travel, just going to parks, and asking if I can join in," he said. "Now I can do this with gay guys, too."

Even though there are a few Japanese sports groups, Inamura still had to hustle to get a Japanese team together.

Competing teams

Men's Division 1

San Francisco 1
Team Americas
Hotlanta
Seattle
San Diego
Florida Storm

Men's Division 2

San Francisco 2
San Francisco 3
Los Angeles
Dallas
New York
Boston
Sydney
Washington, D.C.
Japan Samurai
Vancouver

Women's teams

Wilde Oscars
SF Scots
Real Seattle
N'oreaster
SF Spykes
Hope & Anchor (NY)

"I hope that we can bring a soccer team to Chicago [for Gay Games VIII], but I am not sure where I will be then," Inamura added. "So I wish everyone going from Japan to San Francisco to fully enjoy themselves!"

Volunteers are still needed throughout the week to welcome teams and players at the host hotel - the Ramada Inn - on Sunday August 1; team liaisons to help visiting teams find their way around San Francisco; and on the fields to set up nets, distribute and collect equipment, and assist referees. E-mail volunteer organizer David Mould at david@sfsfspikes.com. ▼

For more info, visit www.sf2004.org. Read more sports columns at www.sportscomplex.org.

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1 PEER HEALTH EDUCATOR TRAINING Sunday, August 1, 9:30am @ STOP AIDS Main Office, 2128 15th St Pre-registration is required.

4 IN OUR PRIME: MY HEART BELONGS TO DADDY Wednesday, August 4, 7pm @ STOP AIDS Main Office, 2128 15th St Turns out you don't have to be into leather or generous to be a Daddy. Share your feelings about what this new or not so new facet of your life is like.

6 FIRST FRIDAYS Friday, August 6, 7pm @ STOP AIDS Main Office, 2128 15th St Before you hit the town, spend some quality time with our regular social gathering of HIV- guys.

11 GUYZ NOW: SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE TWEAKERS Wednesday, August 11, 7pm @ STOP AIDS Main Office, 2128 15th St Is your boyfriend using too much? Do you have friends who party way more than you do and you're worried? How can we offer advice and support and not feel powerless?

17 NEGATIVE MEN'S SUPPORT GROUPS: MAGNETIC LOVE Tuesday, August 17, 7pm @ STOP AIDS Main Office, 2128 15th St Many of us are doin' it with men of a different status. Talk about sex, love and intimacy with other poz and negative men.

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Upcoming events

Local softball fundraiser

The North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) will hold its annual Gay Softball World Series this year in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, from August 15-21. D2, a.k.a. "Doing it with 2," is a local team that will be competing. Team members are holding a beer benefit and 50/50 raffle fundraiser at the Eagle Tavern, 12th and Harrison streets, on July 31 from 3 to 6 p.m. The \$8 beer benefit includes a barbecue, and lots of the usual fun for which Sundays at the Eagle are known. Help D2 get to Texas, y'all.

Rug hug plug

The San Francisco Fog Rugby Football Club, fresh from its victory in England at the second annual Mark Bingham Classic, is always looking for fresh faces and tough bodies.

Regular practices are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Games or practices are on Saturdays. All levels are welcome. All practices are open to newcomers. Compete, play several gay teams each year, and travel to regional, national, and international tournaments. Info: Call (415) 267-6100, e-mail Pete DuBois at info@sffog.org, or visit www.sffog.org.

Mileage

Richard Apodaca, the 61-year old AIDS survivor interviewed previously in the *Bay Area Reporter*, is gearing up to run the San Francisco Marathon on Sunday, August 1. This will be his 14th marathon.

The staging area will be held steps away from the start and finish, in Justin Herman Plaza, across from the Ferry Building at Market and Stewart streets.

To find out where to watch all the runners, including members of Front Runners and Bay Area Distance Runners, visit www.chroniclemarathon.com, www.sffrontrunners.org, or www.sfbadr.com.

Badminton fresh

A new gay-friendly Badminton e-group is dedicated to the gay and gay-friendly badminton players. This e-group will help gay and gay-friendly badminton players to exchange information, make friends, find playing partners. Visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gay_badminton/

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bisexual confab

◀ page 4

travaganza.

Presentations will cover a wide range of topics including bi dating, polyamory, the intersection of transgender and bisexual identity, queer writing, bisexual representation in film, same-sex domestic violence, sacred sexuality, lifestyles of bisexual married men (married to women, that is), and happiness without wedding bells, presented by the Alternatives to Marriage Project.

The conference keynote speakers will be Margaret Charmoli, Ph.D., a longtime bi activist and author of a St. Paul ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the

basis of sexual orientation and gender identity; Makoto Hibino, a transgender bisexual activist and author of a popular book on bisexuality in Japan; and Luigi Ferrer, a Latino bi activist who has served on the board of the National Association of People With AIDS and is currently vice president of BiNet USA.

Registration will open on Thursday afternoon, followed by Charmoli's keynote address. Workshops will take place Friday and Saturday. Hibino will speak on Friday afternoon, and Ferrer on Saturday evening. There will be a dance on Friday night, and live entertainment on Saturday evening featuring folk-rock singer Magdalen Hsu-Li. The conference

will wrap up with a plenary session on Sunday morning.

The International Conference on Bisexuality first took place in Amsterdam in 1991, and was last held in the United States, in Boston, in 1998. This year's event is sponsored by the Bisexual Organizing Project, a bisexual advocacy group based in the Twin Cities, and the San Diego-based Bisexual Foundation. ▼

Conference registration costs \$75 at the door, with a discounted rate for youth under age 25. For more information, visit the conference Web site at www.8icb.org or call (612) 825-4400.

Badlands

◀ page 5

would be in mediation, saying only that its main goal is to establish a new standard for San Francisco's responsiveness to discrimination.

"In a complaint of this size, with so many former employees' and patrons' accounts, diversity training and a sign that says 'Everyone's welcome' is not

enough," Newsome said. "We are not looking for a monetary settlement. Our civil rights are not for sale. We want a new bar set for lasting, structural change."

As part of its ongoing desire to foster a community dialogue about racism, the group will also be hosting a dance next month at the LGBT Community Center. Called "Spectrum: The Promise of the Castro," it is meant to serve as both a fundraiser and an example of what the group seeks for the

neighborhood.

"We want to have something fun that shows the potential of what the Castro can be if we live up to these values. This matter with Badlands has been so serious, we want to invite everyone to be in what's fun about diversity and inclusion," said Don Rombesburg, a spokesman for the group.

The dance will take place from 8 to midnight August 12 at the center at 1800 Market Street. Suggested donation is \$10. ▼

Guest Opinion

◀ page 6

the country if someone was filming. HBO was not allowed inside, however, because it was a government matter, but we waited outside for my mom and Arzu. Immigration didn't want to let her back in the country, and after much turmoil the guy said that he would, "make an exception."

As we all embraced and cried all I could think of was how unfair. How unfair it is that a loving family, a loving parent that is here on a student visa paying 13 times

as much to go to school just so she can stay with her family, is still treated as if she is much less than equal. How unfair that they would tell her the only reason she is here is because of an exception. How unfair it is that I should have to constantly fear that one day, immigration officials will stop making "exceptions," and tear apart my family.

I still live with the constant fear that my family will be ripped apart any day. Arzu had no choice but to go back to Germany to renew her passport, and visit her sick mom. My mom and I will be going to visit her, and all coming

back at the same time. I fear that we will have problems getting her back in at the border. I told all of my friends that if I'm not there on the first day of school I'm in Germany. I refuse to cross the border without both of my moms by my side. I refuse to let our leaders continue to discriminate against loving families like mine. No one can take my moms away from me, and I will continue to fight until we have all of the rights that we deserve. ▼

Marina Gatto, 16, is a summer intern with Equality California.

AIDS funding

◀ page 11

and counseling services to 1,000 people living with HIV.

It also means the agency is given more breathing room to deal with federal funding cuts it received this year. This spring, Shanti lost \$480,000 in federal Ryan White CARE Act revenue due to the city's \$4 million drop in funds. The agency canceled its transportation services and reduced its capacity to offer case management services.

The agency has laid off staff and Sims took a pay cut in order to offset the lost revenue. Shanti also launched a new branding campaign this summer — with new advertising on buses, in magazines, and on the Internet — to raise the agency's profile, and in turn, its donations.

"We have seen some lift in financial donations," said Sims,

who added that more importantly, "a lot of people have seen the campaign so because of that it has been a success. The summer months are the worst months for fundraising. We are hoping it will be a long-term gain."

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation stood to lose a \$383,179 contract it oversees with the AIDS Health Project. It will now likely receive \$500,000 though the final amount remains in flux, said Dana Van Gorder, the foundation's director of state and local affairs. The remainder of the city's money will help to back-fill the CARE cuts from March, he said.

With the city's budget dependent on several new taxes that will be put before voters in November, Van Gorder said the foundation would be reviewing any ballot measures that will enhance the city's revenues and will decide if it will support them.

To date, he said, "We have been focusing exclusively on the cuts

and not revenue enhancement issues. We have not taken a position on them."

If the city's financial situation does not improve, Van Gorder acknowledged that next spring all three AIDS agencies might be facing the same funding cuts.

"I would assume we would be vulnerable again. These particular contracts have been offered up for the last three years, so certainly it is conceivable [Health Director Mitch Katz] would include them in his target of cuts next year if he is required to make additional cuts," said Van Gorder.

As city health officials retool how they fund AIDS services due to decreases in funding, Sims said the city adds take some of the stress out of those conversations.

"AIDS services and the structure of AIDS services need to be changed. It shouldn't be driven by budget cuts so this means that conversation can go forward," said Sims. ▼

her closing but introduced an element of homophobia to punctuate her case, hoping to play to any bias she might find in Los Angeles (the trial had been moved because of its high profile). But in the end, her client was convicted of murder (although a judge later tossed out the conviction in favor of manslaughter). And the jury, said Hammer, was clearly insulted by

the defense tactics.

"At the end, the jury very poignantly said (during exit interviews), 'Who does she think we are? This is Los Angeles in 2002,'" recalled Hammer. "I'm still amazed by that progress we've made."

The societal change has to happen somewhere, agree advocates, because continuing to allow biased defenses perpetuates the climate in which the crime. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0277244-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: E & M Cafe 380 Golden Gate Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kwan Tsoi. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-30-04.

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29 2004

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: A-0270799-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: E & M Cafe Located at: 380 Golden Gate Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business was conducted by an individual signed James Yu-Chia Na. The fictitious name referred to above was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on: 10-20-03.

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277257-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lombard Heights Nail Salon 3288 Steiner St. San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Tim Thi Thu Thuy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06-30-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-30-04.

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277148-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ego Products 887 Bush St. # 502 San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Eugene Baher. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06-15-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-28-04.

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277362-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1207-1209 Guerrero Homeowners 1207 Guerrero St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a Homeowners Association, signed Robert Anderson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07-02-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07-02-04.

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277274-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: CLUBSEEN Magazine 1177 Polk St. Ste. #305 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Robert Kang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-30-04.

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277368-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 333 International, LLC 66 Clipper St. Ste. #2 San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company, signed Andrew J. Oliff. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07-02-04.

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277471-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Qeester, 460 Post St., San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Timothy Blackmore. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/21/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/09/04.

JULY 15, 22, 29, AUG. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277309-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Shanti, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed H Sims. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 05/1/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/01/04.

JULY 15, 22, 29, AUG. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277075-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Freedom-of-Teach, 425 Market St., Suite 2200 San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Tareq Mirza. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06/23/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/24/04.

JULY 15, 22, 29, AUG. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277419-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Durlan Newsletter, 1923 35th Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Cynthia Y. Lim. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/07/04.

JULY 15, 22, 29, AUG. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277454-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: A&M Snacks, 1228 Gateview Ct. #C San Francisco, Ca. 94130. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Antoinette James. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07/08/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/08/04.

JULY 15, 22, 29, AUG. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277385-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: H3, 1221 Harrison St., Suite #6, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mark T. Haynie. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/06/04.

JULY 15, 22, 29, AUG. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277384-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Banana Best, 554 Commercial St., San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Vena Sholviyartana. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/06/04.

JULY 15, 22, 29, AUG. 5, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276973-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Grayson Sinclair Bourne Design, 2327 20th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Grayson S. Bourne. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-22-04.

JULY 22, 29, AUG. 5, 12, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277450-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wright Way Property Management, 558 Filbert Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Greg Wright. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07/08/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/08/04.

JULY 22, 29, AUG. 5, 12, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541450

In the matter of the application of Chrsieli Anne Bethae Borja for change of name. The application of Chrsieli Anne Bethae Borja for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Chrsieli Anne Bethae Borja has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Joseli B. Mallari. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the ninth day of September at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 22, 29, AUG. 5, 12, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277633-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kiki Yo, 605 B Cheney Street San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kirkian C. Taber. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07/15/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/15/04.

JULY 22, 29, AUG. 5, 12, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277614-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mark Tetrault Design, 3851 26th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mark Tetrault. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 07/02/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/15/04.

JULY 22, 29, AUG. 5, 12, 2004



'Trans panic'

◀ page 12

trial, Nedra Ruiz, attorney for defendant Marjorie Knoller, alluded in her closing arguments that the only reason the case was a murder trial was because of powerful gays in San Francisco (victim Whipple was a lesbian). Ruiz not only ousted Hammer in

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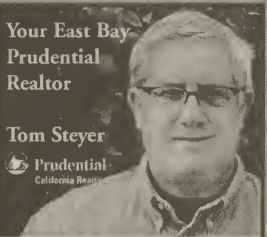
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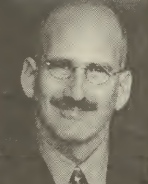
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NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
SUMMER'S STILL HOT AT SF RECREATION AND PARKS

Check out the following children-friendly events, happening in August:

† The Young People's Teen Musical Theatre Company presents "Wiz-O-Mania,"
 Thursdays and Saturdays through August 7, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, August 1 & 8, at 2 p.m.,
 at the Randall Theater, 199 Museum Way in San Francisco. Over the years, more than 900
 teens have participated in this city arts program, now celebrating its 21st year. Come enjoy
 the magic of theater. Tickets: \$7-9. For more information, please call (415) 554-9523.

† Saturdays are Special at the Randall Museum. Drop in for hands-on art and science work-
 shops every Saturday, between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., at the Randall Museum, 199 Museum
 Way. All ages welcome; under 8 years old must be accompanied by adult. Cost: \$3 per per-
 son. For more information, please call (415) 554-9600.

† August 7 Rock Painting: Try your hand at the art of rock painting.
 August 14 Clay Insects: Invent an insect out of self-drying clay and wire, then add color with
 iridescent paint.

† August 21 Arachnids: Learn about arachnids and create your own eight-legged creature
 with fangs.

† August 28 Wooden Yo-Yos: Make a wooden yo-yo that really works.

† 2004 Soccer Shoot-Out Contest--- All girls and boys ages 8 through 13 are invited to
 compete in this citywide summer soccer event, a best-of-15-shots-on-goal contest, August
 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Scott Golde at
 (415) 753-7109. First place winners will be eligible for the region-wide competition. National
 winners receive \$20,000 scholarships for college. FREE!

† The Sharon Art Studio's Annual Summer Pottery Sale, August 8, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 The Summer Sale features beautiful and functional hand-crafted pottery, including vases,
 bowls, serving dishes and teapots. The Sharon Art Studio is located in Golden Gate Park,
 adjacent to Children's Playground and the carousel. For more information, please call
 (415) 753-7004.

† For more information on any of the programs or sites operated by the Recreation and
 Park Department, please call (415) 831-2782.

† **THE SAN FRANCISCO CITY CLINIC**

City Clinic provides free or low cost, confidential, comprehensive sexually transmitted
 disease diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The Clinic is
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 Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., and
 Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The telephone number is (415) 487-5500.

† **SAN FRANCISCO ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL LOST PET HOTLINE**
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 We also provide complete information on how to look for your lost pet. Don't forget,
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† We are the only shelter in the city that can accept lost animals, so keep our number handy.
 We hope you will never have to use it!

STATEMENT FILE A-0277683-00

The following person(s) are doing business
 as: Mobile Health Consultants, 1058 Haight
 Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business
 is conducted by co-partners, signed Jay
 J. Kerzner. The registrant(s) commenced to
 transact business under the above listed fic-
 titious business name or names on 07/16/04.
 The statement was filed with the City and
 County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/16/04
JULY 22, 29, AUG. 5, 12, 2004

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
 STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
 FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**
FILE # CNC 04541465

In the matter of the application of
 David Adam Lange for change of
 name. The application of David Adam
 Lange for change of name having
 been filed in Court, and it appearing
 from said application that David
 Adam Lange has filed an application
 proposing that his/her name be
 changed to David Adam Galang. Now
 therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all
 persons interested in said matter do
 appear before this Court in Department
 218 on the sixteenth day of
 September at 9:00 am of said day to
 show cause why the application for
 change of name should not be granted.
JULY 29, AUG. 5, 12, 19, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0277758-00

The following person(s) are doing business
 as: Songs For All Seasons, 2490 33rd Ave.
 San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is
 conducted by an individual, signed Hilda C.
 Schelder. The registrant(s) commenced to
 transact business under the above listed fic-
 titious business name or names on 07/20/04.
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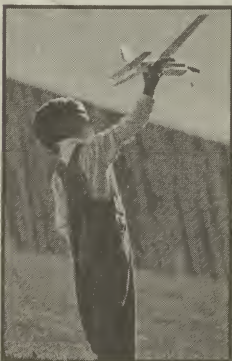
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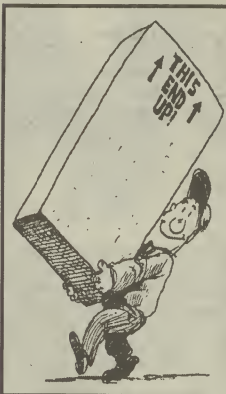


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Mabel Teng with Georgia Kolas and Willy Wilkinson
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Skaters, graffiti and skateboard art
'Beautiful Losers: Contemporary Art &
Street Culture' at Yerba Buena Center.
page 34

'Pennies' arcade
New life for Peters/Martin
MGM musical daydream.
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Candidate Meryl
Streep on 'Manchurian'
and her stellar film career.
page 31



BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 34 • No. 31 • 29 July 2004



Neil Sandilands and
Rouxnet Brown play the
leads in *Proteus*.

Photo courtesy of Strand Releasing

Ebony and ivory

Interracial same-sex love
goes on trial in 'Proteus' by Sandip Roy

There are two myths about gay films that *Proteus*, opening Friday at the Castro Theatre, is quick to demolish. One is that gay films cannot deal with anything much more serious than cute shirtless boys flirting in West Hollywood. The second is that whether it's set in the Castro or small-town Montana, a gay film is essentially a post-Stonewall creature. It's as if before then, there were no gay men, just men who had sex with men.

Proteus, on the other hand, is set in the 1730s, in the notorious Robben Island prison in South Africa, which once housed Nelson Mandela. It's based on the real transcripts of an interracial sodomy trial involving Rijkhaart Jacobsz, a Dutch sailor, and Claas Blank, a Khoi herder, often disparagingly called a Hottentot. But when director John Greyson first saw the script, he was nonplussed. "On the surface, there didn't seem to be much there. It was interesting, but where was the narrative?" he wondered.

His South African co-director, anti-apartheid activist Jack Lewis, who had stumbled upon the transcript while researching for a campaign to include non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in the South African Constitution, asked him to read between the lines of the transcript.

"Looking through that manuscript was rather like looking at the Turin Shroud for signs of what may have been," says Lewis. "Through the semi-opaque text of the 270-year-old court transcript, we really believed we could discern the outline of a relationship."

The transcripts showed the men had been caught having sex several times over a decade. Could they just call it sex anymore, wondered Greyson. "If you keep having sex with a man, the same man, year after year, you beg for words to define what you are doing," he says.

In fact, the film opens with a sort of Greek chorus of court stenographers tussling with the exact same problem: how to name the act the two men had been accused of.

Naming is at the core of this film. A third character in the film is an English botanist who is trying to name and classify the Protea species of flowers, and is captivated by the young Khoi herder. "The film is really about classification as well," says Greyson. "It's about systemization, hierarchical ordering, Latinization, about taking things in native languages and obliterating them."

Living history

South Africa's first gay feature could easily have been a historical costume picture. "The first version was sort of a bleak Merchant-and-Ivory collision with Chantal Ackerman," chuckles Greyson. But the actual film ends up with anachronistic touches like jeeps. "It keeps the audience on its toes to not nec-

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Reconciling Muslim and gay

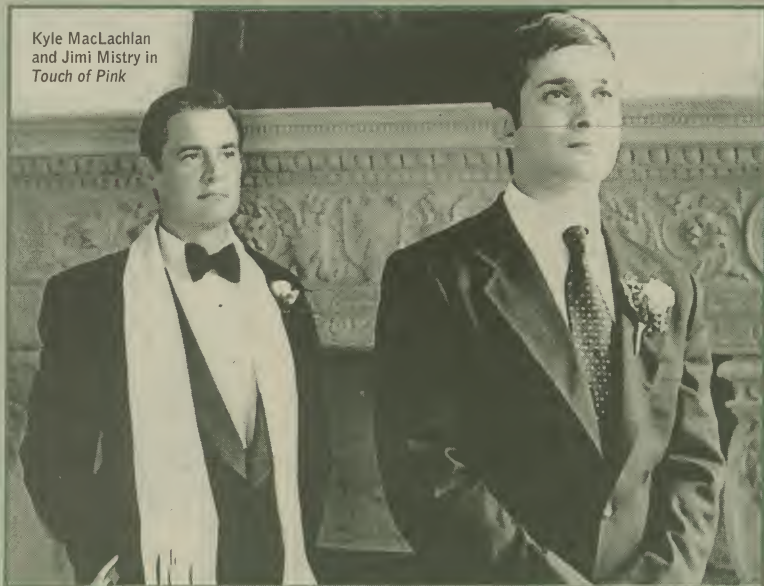
Counting on Cary Grant
in 'Touch of Pink' by David Lamble

Growing up, Ian Rashid was aware of an odd fact: his very proper mother had a secret fantasy life with Cary Grant. "As a young woman in colonial East Africa, my mother would watch old Hollywood films, and they had a huge power over her life. Before she married my father, my mother came to London. She was a very poor, uneducated Muslim woman in her early 20s who somehow found the resources to get herself to London for a year, ostensibly to take a secretarial course, but that was just bizarre to me.

"Years later, when we were growing up as refugees in Canada, the only quality time I spent with my mother was when I was ill from school. She'd feed me soup, and we'd watch *That Touch of Mink*. Sud-

page 38 ►

Kyle MacLachlan
and Jimi Mistry in
Touch of Pink



Carol Rancati

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

People, people who clap people

Are the gushiest people in the Castro Theatre world

by Roberto Friedman

Dateline: Newsroom. Print media worldwide are experiencing a decline in readership, while the DVD industry is going va-va-boom. Newspaper editors the globe over are asking ourselves: What could DVDs possibly have that we don't have? The answer is obvious: Special bonus features! This oversight is so easily remedied.

Bonus follow-up item to last week's cover interview/career survey of movie star **Jane Russell**: Last Friday night's **Marc Huestis**-produced gala *Ladies & Gentlemen Prefer Jane Russell!* at the Castro Theatre was certainly one of his best. Being in the audience is always somewhat like attending a bizarre Holiday Spectacular at the Radio City Music Hall in a parallel universe, where the stage show comes first, and twisted.

As Russell and **Marilyn Monroe** in a number from *Gentleman Prefer Blondes*, troupers **Matthew Martin** and **Jordan L'Moore** were pitch-perfect. Their costumes by SF couturier **Mr. David** were stitch-perfect. A pristine archival print of the classic film would screen later — much later.

First, amid thunderous ovations from standing and delivering queens, gentleman walker **F. Allen Sawyer** escorted La Russell herself to the Castro stage for her onstage interview with chatty hatty **Jan Wahl**. Huestis was right: Even in advanced years, JR does look like the original model for animated bombshell **Jessica Rabbit**.

During the cozy chat, simulcast on the giant Castro screen, Jane was disconcertingly given to



Matthew Martin as Jane, Jane Russell, and Jordan L'Moore as Marilyn.

quoting from Scripture, referring repeatedly to the vicissitudes of her career as a series of "accidents of the Lord," which had the odd and surely unintentional effect of making Him seem rather a clumsy deity. The Hat Lady cleverly tried to get Russell to retrace the steps in her career — "Then the Lord brought you to **Bob Hope!**" — largely to no avail. But soon the classic star was handed a wireless mic and allowed to perform, belting out "Big Bad Jane,"

playing to the Castro balcony, and in the process reminding us why she is a star.

Jane was plain about all those years of being the focus of pin-up photographers: "They'd say, 'Jane, pick up these two pails,' and then you're on the cover of all the magazines. My whole family wanted to puke, especially me."

She shrugged and lifted an arched eyebrow when asked why mad mogul/movie producer **Howard Hughes** was so into

breasts and so fetishy about them. "It was his bag."



Tom of Finland meets toile.

Hot sheets

Bonus bedroom furnishings item: **Dirty Linens** is the new line of bed linens from Groovy Q, pillowcases and sheets patterned in what the company describes as the world's first gay toile. Popularized in 17th-century France, toile is fabric patterned with illustrations, usually pastorals celebrating the joys of country life. But in *Dirty Linens*, all those demure shepherdesses have been replaced by biker boys lifted from the pages

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The line includes pillowcases, king and queen (we'll say) sheets, lounge pants and boxer shorts, all made from 200-thread-count combed cotton. Designer **Avram Finkelstein** remarks, "Dirty Linen is the demented Love Child of **Martha Stewart** and **John Waters**. We're **Laura Ashley**'s evil twin."

Well, now that they've made their bed, they'll have to lie in it. But we wonder how many biker boys really know the meaning of toile. Info at www.groovyq.com.



More pulp

Thanks for all the nice feedback on writer **Jeff Reys**' arts cover story a few weeks back, on the classic gay pulp novels of **Victor J. Banis**. As a special bonus value-added item in this week's issue, please find the cover of one more gay pulp paperback, *Good-Bye, My Lover*, this one scribed by a writer with the immortal pseudonym **J.X. Williams**. Click here.

Extra helpings

Free bold-face bonus bonanza: Most of these celebrated performers will appear at *Help is on the Way X, Broadway and All That Jazz*: **Lucie Arnaz**, **Brian Boitano**, **Franc D'Ambrosio**, **Tyne Daly**, **Flo Henderson**, **Lucy Law-**



Will Flo show at HIOTW?

less, **Meg Mackay**, **Sean McDermott**, **Bruce Vilanch**. Sometimes artists will have to cancel after our presstime. Northern California's largest AIDS benefit concert takes place on Monday, Aug. 2, at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater, 3301 Lyon St. in SF. May already be sold out; tickets (\$75-\$150+): (415) 273-1620.

Bonus celeb item: Hometown legend **Connie Champagne** wowed the crowd down south at the Ford Amphitheatre, right across from the Hollywood Bowl, last Saturday night as she joined the West Hollywood Orchestra

next page ►



Connie as Judy in WeHo

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Re-elect Meryl Streep Actress-in-Chief

'The Manchurian Candidate' is revamped by director Jonathan Demme

by Tim Nasson

Meryl Streep: The name is synonymous with flawless acting. Not just in tearjerker dramas like *The Bridges of Madison County* and *Angels in America*. Don't forget the comedic side of Meryl Streep in *Defending Your Life*, *She-Devil* and *Death Becomes Her*. It's not hard to figure out why many bestow the title Greatest Living Actor upon her. In 27 years, Streep has managed to accumulate 13 Academy Award nominations, with two wins to her name: Supporting Actress in *Kramer vs. Kramer*, Best Actress in *Sophie's Choice*.

At 55, Streep has many years to go, and who knows how many more Oscar nominations, before she packs up her bag of acting tricks and retires. And to think, she hadn't always wanted to act. "I wanted to be an opera singer. That was my dream as a girl and as a teenager," Streep told me. Not until she was a student at Vassar did the acting bug bite her.

This is a great year for Streep. She has won the Golden Globe and SAG award for Best Actress for her triple role in the HBO movie *Angels in America*, and is poised to win the hat-trick, the Emmy, for the same role in September. Congratulated on her wins and nomination, Streep said proudly, "You can be the first to report the correct number of Emmy nominations for *Angels*. It's 22, not 21 as the press has been incorrectly reporting."

I sat with Streep recently at the Essex House in New York City to discuss her illustrious career and one of her busiest years. In addition to *Angels*, Streep co-stars with Denzel Washington in the big-screen remake of *The Manchurian Candidate*, opening Friday. She has the role that Angela Lansbury made famous in 1962. "I'm a copycat. If I had seen the original film before I made this, I would have stolen from her," she said of Lansbury's Oscar-nominated performance.

This new *Manchurian Candidate*, Paramount's second remake of the summer following *The Stepford Wives*, is directed by Jonathan Demme, whose *Silence*



Photo courtesy of Paramount

'If you gave my character a penis, no one'd be troubled by her behavior.'

of the *Lambs* swept the Oscars in 1991. Based on Raymond Chandler's classic bestselling novel, it tells a story of mind control and abuse of political power. Poised to open between the Democratic and Republican Conventions, the film is sure to stir up debate.

Power mom

"Shut up, Denzel!" shouted Streep to Denzel Washington, who was in the next room, being interviewed. "His voice has a tendency to project," she said, her voice also projecting so Washington can hear her. "If you gave my character a penis, no one would be troubled by her behavior," she said of Senator Eleanor Prentiss Shaw, hell-bent on securing her son's nomination as Vice President of the United States, regardless of the cost. Liev Schreiber plays Streep's son.

being an East Coast actress. "I grew up in New Jersey," she said, "and will always be fond of the ever-changing seasons and the hustle and bustle of New York City. But I also like my space, and Connecticut has the same seasons, yet gives me a little more room to spread out."

If you think Meryl Streep has conquered it all, think again. Her next movie will give audiences a look at another side of her acting abilities. Her upcoming Christmas family film is *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*, based on the beloved children's book of the same name.

"Oh, yes, that," Streep said sheepishly. "I had so much fun

playing that role and working with Jim Carrey and Jude Law. I hope children and adults are both equally entertained."

Chances are Streep will garner another Academy Award nomination or two for her work this year. Since *Angels in America* was not released theatrically, that film is ineligible for Oscar nominations. But look out, Academy. *The Manchurian Candidate* and *Lemony Snicket* await. ▼

MGM just released a Special Edition DVD of the original *The Manchurian Candidate*. HBO releases *Angels in America* on DVD on September 14.

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Out There

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in paying tribute to the actress/singer's signature role, movie legend **Judy Garland**, in their *More Movie Music Madness* pops program. OK, we got the Judy reference in, we can close now. But not before —

Extra Movie Biz item: Last week's *NY Times* business pages had a fascinating profile of 2929 Entertainment heads **Todd Wagner** and **Mark Cuban**, who have acquired Landmark Theaters, largest art-house circuit in the nation, and their imminent plans to convert all theaters to digital screening. Landmark's many screens in the Bay Area make it

seem like a story our local daily might like to cover, no?

Bonus poor thing: Festive SF supe **Bevan Duffy** had to fly home from the Demo Convention early to attend to biz, so, he groused to the beleaguered daily, he had to miss out on the Dems' GQ party. But don't give Bev a pity party, he can probably still make the PQ bash. ▼



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A life spent singing in front of the band

Julie Budd scales down for an intimate run at the Empire Plush Room

by Richard Dodds

She was a little girl with big pipes who could belt out a song like Barbra Streisand. It was enough of a novelty to land 12-year-old Julie Budd a spot on Merv Griffin's old talk show. But it had to be more than the novelty factor that got her invited back 49 times in the next two years, or that had her working in Las Vegas with the likes of Frank Sinatra, Liberace, Jimmy Durante, and Danny Thomas before her 16th birthday.

Julie Budd, now 50, is still at it, adapting her career as needed to stay busy in a business that has drastically changed since she got her start. Pops concerts with symphony orchestras are now a staple of Budd's performing schedule, but first it will be just her and a piano when she opens Aug. 3 in the Empire Plush Room.

"Most singers who do my genre of music play the smaller rooms, and now and then will play a big room," Budd said. "With me, it's kind of the opposite. I always played the big room, so it's interesting when I have to scale down."

But with scaling down comes a freedom you don't have when your accompaniment is an orchestra. "With 105 guys behind you, if you take too many liberties, forget it, darling, they'll see you on the next tune. But when it's just you and a piano, you find yourself doing things you didn't

do before. It means you're working well, because you're working from moment to moment, and not getting locked into what you have always done."

From the time she was still little Edie Erdman from Brooklyn, and a producer saw her knocking 'em dead at a hotel talent show in the Catskills, Budd has been drawn to "grown-up" music that ranges from standards to what is now called adult contemporary. That's the mix on her most recent CD, *If You Could See Me Now*, which she will be signing at Medium Rare Records from 2 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 1.

"My friends were digging the Stones, the Who, that kind of thing," Budd said. "I could enjoy that, but I knew instinctively that there were people who did it better than me. I never wanted to sound foolish, like Jeanette MacDonald goes disco. The moral to that story is, don't chase the market. Find your audience."

Child play

Budd got her professional start at 12, and was pretty much a full-time performer by the time she was 14. But she doesn't feel she missed out on her childhood. "A lot of my friends in the business feel that way, because they didn't get to choose. They had these parents pushing them. But my parents are like the most un-showbiz people you'll ever meet. I had to beg them to let me do this. I tell this joke that they just wanted me



'I saw everything. I saw people doing crazy things for their ambitions.'

to fix my nose and marry a doctor." In fact, Budd recently became engaged to a doctor, causing her parents to at long last kvell.

When Budd's parents finally gave their OK, her father also gave

her an ultimatum. "He said, 'You're working with seasoned professionals, and I don't want you to think that just because you're a kid, that's enough of a novelty. I want you to be as seri-

ous at this as any adult would be, or I'm going to pull you out.' It was the best thing my parents could have said to me."

Because child-labor laws were more relaxed there, she wound up frequently playing Las Vegas. "I saw everything. I saw drugs. I saw booze. I saw infidelities. I saw people doing crazy things for their ambitions. I was just never attracted to crazy people, because I was always afraid they would draw me into the darkest parts of their lives."

Budd is writing a book based on her experiences growing up in the company of show-business legends. "It's an homage to the greatest American entertainers, and, oh, by the way, I happen to have been there. I become the back story."

Her career started with a bang, coasted for a while, hit some slow stretches, and now appears to be on an even keel. "I'm the luckiest girl on the planet," Budd said, "because I've got a little bit of yesterday and I still have tomorrow." ▼

Julie Budd will perform Aug. 3-15 at the Empire Plush Room. Tickets are \$30-\$35, plus a two-drink minimum. Call 885-2800 or go to empireplushroom.com.

Young woman in peril

Dangerous drug-running in 'Maria'

by David Lamble

In the new film *Maria Full of Grace*, Maria (the charismatic newcomer Catalina Sandino

Moreno) makes a number of impulsive decisions: to quit her dreary, dead-end job at a flower-processing plant in her small Colombian village, to break up with the feckless boyfriend by whom she

has become pregnant, to run off with the dangerously handsome, leather-jacket-clad motorcyclist Franklin (John Alex Toro) who takes her to his boss, the avuncu-

next page ►

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FILM

Not sexual, but erotic

Sokurov's hypnotic 'Father and Son'

by David Lambie

Odd as it may appear to queer eyes, incest is not the issue between a father and son whose intense if inscrutable bond makes it impossible for us to discern who they are for several minutes into the fantastically imagined short feature *Father and Son*. At first, the opening scene appears to be a post-orgasmic wrestling match between male lovers, whose limbs are so entwined as to be indistinguishable. Gradually we see that an older man, the father, is cradling a younger one, the son—you might almost say mothering him, soothing his fright after an odd dream. Like the father, we get sucked into the dream. Like the father, we can be excused for wanting to offer the son succor.

Director Alexander Sokurov amazed American audiences with his elaborately staged, single-take tour of the Romanov family palace turned world-class muse-

um, the Hermitage, in *Russian Ark*. Now he tells another splendid story filmed, as one critic put it, "in one breath." Father (the imperiously handsome Andrei Shetinin) and Son (the charmingly ferocious Alexei Neimyshev) have lived together since the son was born when the father was a military cadet of 20. The father now wants the son to pick up military life where he himself was forced to abandon it. But the son is reluctant to tear himself away from the one strong bond he has known and trusted. A telling line of dialogue pops up twice. "A father who loves his son crucifies him. A son who loves his father sacrifices himself for him. I don't get the meaning of that one," the son whispers enigmatically.

Shot in hypnotically burnished sepia tones in Lisbon, Portugal, *Father and Son* demands to be absorbed for its beauty and audacious performances. A long scene on a Lisbon streetcar is as captivatingly off-kilter as some of the

best sex in other films. While he has angrily rejected homoerotic readings of his film, in some ways Sokurov does protest too much, for the body language between the principals bears a sexual subtext in virtually any culture on this planet. If anything, *Father and Son* becomes a kind of photo essay on the need to contain a love that knows no boundaries.

As the father, Shetinin resembles Nureyev late in life, when his beauty was giving way to a gaunt, somewhat haunted look. The son beholds the father as if he were a living statue, running his hand across the father's face like a sculptor intending to make changes before the clay hardens.

The father looks on in the academy gym as the son performs a wrestling exercise with a fellow cadet, the mock violence of their movements an erotically charged ballet. The son is called away to a window, where he has a coy chat with a potential girlfriend who knows she has the father as a rival.



Father (Andrei Shetinin) and son (Alexei Neimyshev) forge a strong bond.

As the story progresses, the son's travails over the girlfriend, his missing mother and a buddy/neighbor claim his attention. In the end, he returns to his dream and his father. *Opens Friday.* ▼

Maria Full...Grace

◀ previous page

lar local drug-chief Javier (Jaime Osorio Gomez), and finally, to swallow 62 pellets full of heroin for transport to New York City. Maria thus begins a perilous journey of self-discovery full of something quite more tangible than grace.

In the very capable hands of first-time director Joshua Marston, *Maria Full of Grace* becomes not a preachy cautionary tale about a young woman who makes a bad choice, but rather a gripping coming-of-age adventure, the kind whose protagonist is more often a dodgy sort of young man.

Of all her troubles, Maria's boyfriend tops the list. Maria's big blowup scene with Juan (actor Wilson Guerrero was Moreno's real-life boyfriend at the time of the filming) crackles with all the pent-up frustration of a young woman who is about to give up on a whole country rather than be chained to a man who wants to marry her only out of a feudal sense of obligation.

Maria's ride on the back of Franklin's bike is the film's only romantic digression, but like every other moment, Moreno's uncanny, intuitive feel for her character allows us to believe she might do anything, like becoming attached to a guy whose leather togs exude the scent of Brando or Che. Franklin is a tease, and some guys can tease you to death.

In accepting Javier's offer to become a drug courier or "mule," Maria realizes she's passed a point of no return. To back out means that specific harm will befall family members she's already abandoned in her heart. Her new friends will be women who wish to change their fate with a potentially deadly toss of the dice.

Two women become her angels in peril: a co-worker from the flower plantation, Blanca (Yenny Paola Vega), a doggedly free spirit; and Lucy (Guilied Lopez), an experienced mule whose comfortable Bogota apartment is evidence of the freedom this dangerous job can offer. Lucy warns Maria of the danger: if any of the pellets break inside her body, a slow, agonizing death is the inevitable fate. She



Franklin (John Alex Toro) and Maria (Catalina Sandino Moreno).

also gives her the name and address of a sister in New York, as a lifeline in case of trouble.

Fly trap

From the time she boards the plane to the final scene of the film, we share Maria's giddy sense of joy and dread: every pit stop, from the airplane restroom to the interrogation rooms of the customs inspectors at Kennedy Airport, to the squalid motel run by the vicious thugs assigned to retrieve the pellets, is a potential trap.

Early in the flight, Lucy becomes sick. Soon, Maria and Blanca are forced to flee for their lives into the scary world of America, where the friendliest voice they hear is an immigrant cab-driver yelling, "It's off the meter."

The women wind up on the doorstep of Lucy's sister, a member of the huge Colombian community in Queens. Maria feels a growing sense of anxiety and guilt. Is the price of her tantalizingly possible life in New York to be purchased in a currency of lies and betrayal?

With its careful plotting and lifelike characters, *Maria Full of Grace* casts aside the usual ingredients of drug melodramas, guns and pitiful addicts, for a complex revision of the classic immigrant's story. The notion that everyone

bears a share of responsibility for America's \$46 billion drug habit does not evade the truth that ordinary people like Maria make fateful decisions that become links in a chain of complicity. At least one young Colombian has told the producers that Maria's story convinced him not to be a mule, possibly saving his life. *Opens Friday.* ▼

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Fresh off the street

Skater & graffiti art at Yerba Buena Center

by Kevin Davis

They paved paradise and put up a parking lot. It's a good thing, too, because as Yerba Buena Center for the Arts confirms in *Beautiful Losers: Contemporary Art and Street Culture*, a new, dangerous, defiant and fiercely cooperative "least likely to succeed" crew is inventing their own sensitive aesthetic, with a high regard for urban street elements.

The youthful, exuberant exhibition, guest-curated by Aaron Rose and Christian Strike, of skaters, graphic, graffiti and skateboard art, surveys painting, sculpture, photography and video by 50 artists. Sensible "Adult Material" warnings are posted at the entrance.

From the voyeur's gallery of *Free Basin*, Steve Badgett and Matt Lynch's seven-foot-deep, kidney-shaped skating bowl, a big-butt, droopy-drawers boy revealing plaid boxers is rock 'n' rolling (pushing front truck over the lip, stalling, 180-turn, and back down the ramp).

Mr. Full-tat-sleeves lip-slides in a dizzying erotic spectacle. There's an expectant, flirtatious flash of intimacy when his shirt-tail blows upward, revealing the puff of cotton boxer shorts. What color will they be? Fellow skaters clap, bang their boards on the floor and growl loudly, "Yeah!" for phat freestyle tricks.

Many of the street-centered artists, former pro skaters and "unsanctioned aerosol artists," born mostly in the '70s, all with a



An earlier incarnation of Steve Badgett and Matt Lynch's *Free Basin*.

similar vocabulary of signs and patterns, now own commercial graphic-design studios.

In Todd James' anally fixated "Never Forgive Action" mural of notebook scribbles and an open sketchbook screwed to the wall, his obsessive butt-love for women with wedgies, high heels and cigarette butts recalls R. Crumb (represented here with "Salty Dog Sam Goes Surfin'") and Jean-Michel Basquiat, whose "Donut Revenge" references hostility toward police authority.

Local skating innovator and poet Mark Gonzales' buoyant "Schminx," a car-sized cross between *Li'l Abner's* Schmoos and the Sphinx of Giza with a long rat's tale, makes a peace sign, perhaps embodying the artist's optimism and joy in being consumed.

Stephen Powers' "Superfeen at the Learning Center" features a

comic strip of his despondent, paunchy superhero.

Barry McGee's messy comment on urban cacophony in last year's show gives a low-key feel to his cute but timid installation of motorized mannequins tagging museum walls. McGee's kinetic work always has the familiar smell of steel, oil, and motors.

Ed Templeton's self-disclosing snapshot travelogue collage of friends and lovers, "Cul-de-sac of Lameness," has the empathetic gaze so cruelly lacking in Larry Clark's work, surveyed upstairs in the *Roots and Influences* gallery. Templeton's humble exhibitionism in erection-displaying self-portraits appears both playful and vulnerable.

Former Warhol protégé, Sonoma-based documentary photographer Ari Marcopoulos' digital

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Proteus

◀ Arts cover

essarily trust our version of history," he says. Instead of watching it as history, the audience gets to relate to the stories of police entrapment, torture, and criminalization of sexuality as not just a piece of 18th-century history to be filed away and forgotten.

In *Proteus*, a sodomy scandal in far-away Amsterdam, where 70 men were caught and garroted in the city square, has a catastrophic effect on Rijkhaart and Klaas. As Lewis points out, that kind of "homosexual panic" did not end in the 18th century. "George Bush is having a homosexual panic right now! Robert Mugabe, the President of Zimbabwe, is in a permanent state of homosexual panic, and so is the President of Namibia, another neighbor of South Africa."

For Greyson, *Proteus* was the first time the acclaimed director of *Urinal* and *Lilies* had worked with a co-director. The film is shot in English, Afrikaans and Nama, to reflect the linguistic soup of the time. "My lack of Afrikaans and Nama suggested an obvious job division," he says. Nama is a fast-disappearing language, now only spoken in rural Namibia. On a gay chat-line, Lewis happened to find a gay Nama-speaking man working in a nearby bed-and-breakfast. "Who says chat-lines don't have their finger on the pulse of the community?" laughs Greyson.

Though the film did not have much of a budget and packed a 18-day shoot, the cast was more than willing to pitch in. "Hey, who



South African actors Neil Sandilands and Rouxnet Brown in *Proteus*.

can resist having lots of sex in front of a camera crew in exotic locations? They came flocking!" says Lewis. The leads, Rouxnet Brown and Neil Sandilands, have plenty of experience on the South African stage and television. Lewis says they were excited to do a local story for a change, instead of car commercials.

For both Lewis and Greyson, *Proteus* started out as an interracial "love story" that evolved into a complicated film about geopol-

itics and the sowing of the seeds of apartheid. But for Greyson, the abiding memory is packing up from Robben Island after an exhausting day's shoot. As the ferry left the island, he watched the sun setting on Table Mountain. "Suddenly we all stopped chatting, and in the silence, I really felt like this was the place to be," he says. ▼

Proteus plays the Castro Theatre July 30-Aug. 5.

Embedded in the marriage wars

The man in the middle in 'The Door in the Floor' is a teenage boy

by David Lambie

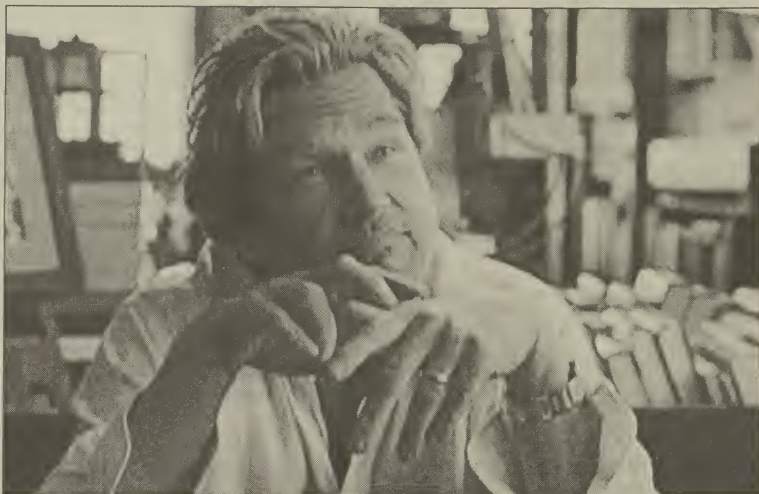
On a lonely stretch of ocean highway, a teenage boy drives an avuncular, bearlike man through the night, the pair sharing the front seat of a Volvo station wagon like an old married couple. On the car radio, a trashy hip-hop song blares forth, its obscene lyrics curdling the boy's face like a taste of sour milk. The boy shuts off the radio, but the older man turns it back on, the volume even louder. Towards the end of the film, the older man will ask the younger one, "Do you feel morally superior, Eddie?" "To you, I do."

In *The Door in the Floor*, a stunningly conceived erotic thriller with moments of wicked farce, based on the writing of John Irving, a gangly prep school student, under the illusion he's been hired as a summer intern to a famous author of children's stories, finds himself instead in a morally suspect role that ranges from enemy combatant to unarmed hostage, to embedded correspondent in the guerrilla war that marks the end of a marriage.

Director Tod Williams, who last directed *The Adventures of Sebastian Cole*, about a troubled teenager who finds surprising stability in the custody of a stepdad who's undergone a sex change, is the perfect ringmaster for the task of bringing the unruly circus of a John Irving novel to the screen. Irving's sentimentality, eccentric characters and outrageous fits of whimsy are like catnip to filmmakers, but the results often seem overcrowded with improbable events, or, as in the case of the author's own adaptation of *The Cider House Rules*, curiously empty of important character development. Williams makes the shrewd decision that less is more, thus crafting a whole film from only the first third of Irving's 1998 novel *A Widow for One Year*. The staple Irving plot elements are spooned out in more leisurely a fashion.

Separate piece

When we first meet Ted (Jeff



Actor Jeff Bridges has perhaps his greatest part yet as children's book author Ted Cole in *The Door in the Floor*.

Bridges) and Marion (Kim Basinger) Cole, the writer informs his wife that he's decided that they should attempt a trial separation, with each alternating a night at the beachhouse, looking after their four-year-old daughter Ruth (Elle Fanning), with a night at an apartment Ted's rented in town. Following this bombshell with a casually tossed hand-grenade, Ted adds he's hired an Exeter student, Eddie O'Hare (Jon Foster), to assist him for the summer.

Marion's shell-shocked response is to repeat the question, "What would he actually do for you?"

The house Eddie comes to work in is no longer a home but, as the snarky babysitter Alice (Bijou Phillips) implies, a kind of creepy shrine to the Coles' teenage sons, Tom and Tim, killed in an auto accident. Ruth treats the handsome black-and-white photos of her dead siblings both as ghostly playmates and as a kind of Dead Sea scrolls of the family's buried secrets, hinted at in her father's bedtime stories. Eddie notices a striking resemblance between himself and the older son, Tom, a resemblance that also oc-

curs to Marion.

Bridges is astonishing as children's book author Ted Cole. Totally in command of his instrument, a 53-year-old body that he displays with cunning and without shame, Ted is aware of his power over people: how his children's stories, filled with images of existential dread, frighten children but draw in adults, especially adult women. From the high school quarterback in *The Last*

Picture Show to the traumatized businessman in *Fearless*, Bridges has often played men who promise more than they're prepared to deliver. In Ted, perhaps Bridges' greatest part, he walks a line between the artist as truth-teller and wounded narcissist.

Basinger commands an emotional range between catatonia and a vivid sense of a woman channeling some distant younger self for the sake of the boy, alto-

gether avoiding a jaded, Mrs. Robinson-like approach to sex scenes that are both explicit and honest in a manner rarely seen in American film.

Gay men and Catholic priests stand accused of wanting to defile the innocence and wound the masculinity of young men like Eddie, but as *Door* illustrates, the Eddies of the world are low hanging *piñatas* for adults of all persuasions. Ted uses Eddie to desecrate his marriage, a weird kind of adultery-by-proxy with his own wife. Ted's more venal sin is to betray the equally sacred institution of mentorship, first by setting Eddie up with Marion, and then by humiliating the boy in small and petty ways, from an honest but cruel assessment of Eddie's short fiction to a brutal game of squash which becomes a deadly version of dodgeball. Ted and Eddie evolve their own twisted domestic relationship, and thus Ted acquires a kind of second spouse, one who will fight back and not merely leave.

Jon Foster's face richly registers the sea change in Eddie's deportment from the scared little rabbit intimidated by Ted's nakedness and shocked at Marion's availability, to a surprisingly mature young man who can, in a *tour de force* scene at film's end, shock and entertain a frame-shop lady with the blunt truth of his summer vacation: "The best writing I've done all summer." Now playing. ▼



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Grand old parties on the tube

by Victoria A. Brownworth

The peril of newspapers is that we simply cannot provide up-to-the-minute coverage of events in the electronic age, even if we do provide more elegant and in-depth coverage overall. That said, the Democratic National Convention (DNC) is at its apex in Boston even as you read this. If there are surprises (wouldn't that be a novelty?), you'll have to view them on the tube, as they happen. What we can predict at presstime is this: John Kerry must woo voters at this convention, and to do that, he has to make TV work for him, by connecting directly to the viewers at home who (inexplicably, given the terrifying alternative enshrined in the White House) have yet to be won over.

But, as Jay Leno noted a few nights ago, "You know how much time the big four TV networks are going to devote to convention coverage? Three hours, total. One hour a night for three nights. Which is only 1/10th the time we devote to choosing an American Idol!"

Of course, each side accuses the other of stacking the media deck when it comes to coverage on the tube, although independent media watchdog organizations have determined that the President gets far more coverage than Kerry on campaign issues, and that the general spin of the news is pro-Bush and pro-war on Iraq. The spin is so bad at Fox that

some groups have filed complaints with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), among them MoveOn.org, which has been organizing events nationwide to expose the unabashed conservative slant of the Rupert Murdoch conglomerate.

One big event last week was the airing of the controversial *Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism*, which, in the words of MoveOn, showed "just how Fox News delivers the Republicans' talking points under the guise of a news broadcast." On July 23, Common Cause and MoveOn filed a complaint with the FTC challenging Fox News' deceptive advertising slogan "fair and balanced." You can access more information and view clips of some of the more outrageous moments on the Bill O'Reilly show and others by clicking onto www.moveon.org/fox/.

According to various sources, Fox has been skewering whistleblowers at the network and attacking former employees who are speaking out about the slant. As MoveOn noted at presstime, "In this election year, nothing could be more important than demanding fair coverage in the press. We're putting all the media on notice that we will accept no less." Stay tuned.

Anchors aweigh

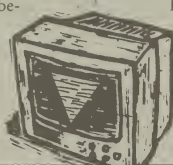
Meanwhile, conservatives on Fox and elsewhere are lamenting the "war against George Bush" by "liberal forces." The references to the "elite media" (read: Jews and

liberals) have been scathing throughout the campaign, even though there has not been a single pro-Kerry commentator on any network program. In the network anchor interviews (Dan Rather on CBS, Tom Brokaw on NBC and Peter Jennings on ABC) with Kerry prior to the convention, not a hint of preferential treatment could be detected. In fact, each was pretty hard on the Senator.

But conservatives believe Bush is being shafted, most notably by something well outside media control, Michael Moore's hit film, *Fahrenheit 9/11*. Prior to the convention, a few notable network newscasters were queried by the archconservative newsblog *The Left Coast* (the nerve: first they co-opt the color red from the left, now this!). Here's their spin in all its skewed glory: according to *TLC*, ABC's *This Week* host George Stephanopoulos had queried folks who had gone to see Moore's film about why they had gone. The answer he received was "because we wanted to get the facts." *TLC* notes, "A few of Stephanopoulos' high-profile peers had intriguing takes on the 'facts.' [Nightline host] Ted Koppel evidently enjoyed the movie but had problems with Moore's accuracy, or lack thereof." According to *TLC*, Koppel described the film as "a terrific

piece of entertainment" that had some "interesting facts in it. It is to the documentary what the [Oliver Stone] *JFK* film was to history."

These comments attributed to Koppel are interesting because, on a recent *Nightline*, former Bush counter-terrorism czar Richard Clarke noted that Moore's film is for the most part utterly accurate. Conservative MSNBC commentator Chris Matthews noted this on Leno the other night as well.



Lavender Tube

Does this mean Koppel is out of the loop (hard to believe), or that he was misquoted by *TLC*?

TLC also quoted "the soon-to-be-retiring Tom Brokaw" as "hitting Moore's film even harder." According to

TLC, Brokaw "the most conservative of the network anchors, highly pro-war on Iraq, and a close personal friend of the Reagans" said Moore's film "took a lot of liberties, not just with the facts, but with how you arrange the facts." Which is pretty much what Moore himself says. The *TLC* "report" ended with the following line:

"The Left Coast Report says using the term 'facts' in the same sentence as Michael Moore is like using the word 'bubbly' to describe Ted Koppel." This is the best they can do?

The conservatives are also bitching that Canada has been censoring Fox for its biased coverage of the war on Iraq and the American election campaign, but they do run Al-Jazeera as a regular network. To which we can only paraphrase that adorable, blue-eyed Pentagon spokesman who was relegated to Outer Mongolia after appearing in the documentary about Al-Jazeera, *Control Room*. Lt. Josh Rushing noted (in a moment of utterly genuine non-spin) that Al-Jazeera and Fox were doing the same thing: presenting a nationalist perspective on the war. Blame it on Canada!

Springer special

Or on Ohio. Tabloid talk show host Jerry Springer is a special (is he ever!) correspondent at the DNC for hometown Cleveland's WOIO-TV. Apparently, the Ohio

Democratic Party named Springer an at-large delegate in Boston. Talk about a tea party! According to the Cleveland station's news director Steve Doerr, Springer will report and comment on aspects of the convention that other reporters might not cover. "We were looking for an unusual way to cover it, with an unusual person who could give it an unusual bent." Bent indeed. Given Springer's predilection for tranny prostitutes, incestuous lovers and other sexually outré folks, we do wish we were living in Cleveland right now to see that take on the convention!

The 9/11 report, which lambasted the Bush Administration for not addressing terrorist threats about hijacked airplanes, was both more and less than many had expected when it was the headline news only last Friday. *Nightline* wasted no time in terrifying the populace just in time for the convention by explaining in frightening detail how unsafe we all still are in the post-9/11 world (wait: isn't that what Moore said in his "fraudulent" film?) because the Bush Administration has done little to actually protect us against terrorist attacks. *Nightline* explored the various points at which we are unsafe, in detail guaranteed to make us wish we were in the bunker at the undisclosed location with the VP. As David Letterman noted in his monologue that night, "The 9/11 Commission Report came out today, and President Bush wasted no time not reading it." Too true.

The day before the 9/11 commission issued their report, the Los Alamos national laboratory, home of the A and H Bombs, acknowledged that they had mislaid some sensitive materials, which led Jay Leno to quip in his monologue, "The Los Alamos national laboratory, where they research nuclear weapons, reports that they are missing two computer discs with sensitive weapons information. How embarrassing is that? Now we can't even find our own weapons of mass destruction." We laughed. Then we cried.

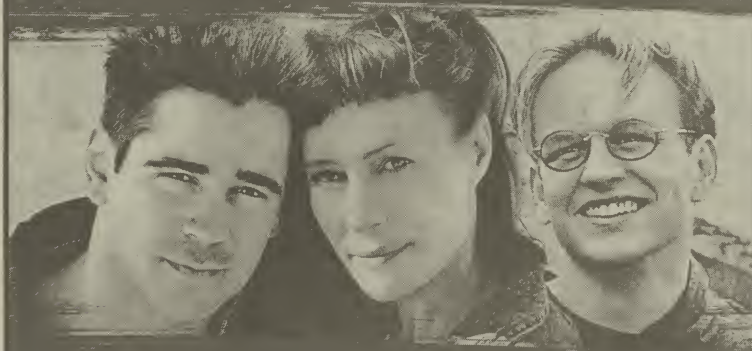
Out for good

Finally, another little tidbit from the conservatives at Fox. Re-

page 44 ►

"COMPLETELY CAPTIVATING...A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT."

Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES



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VIDEO

Still no bowl of cherries

At long last, 'Pennies from Heaven' is out on DVD

by John F. Karr

Among the movies we never expected to see on DVD is this week's surprise release, one never seen on VHS at all: the remarkable *Pennies from Heaven* (Warner Home Video, \$19.97). A full-fledged MGM musical made in 1981, years after the studio stopped making musicals, this movie will be self-recommending to anyone who wants to see Bernadette Peters tap dance all over the screen, then shred it with the acuity of her dramatic scenes, and also replace Ginger in Fred Astaire's arms during a haunting finale.

Or perhaps you want to see Jessica Harper with her nipples painted red with lipstick. Or Verne Bagnier, the creator and star of Broadway's *One Mo' Time*, who performs during the title song a one-of-a-kind eccentric dance of the sort that Buddy Ebsen cribbed off some anonymous black dancer on the streets of New Orleans nearly a century ago. Or perhaps it's the phenomenal Christopher Walken, whose pimp characterization will make your flesh creep, but who will also delight and amaze with a Broadway-quality tap dance routine that culminates in a (nearly) full striptease.

People are surprised that

Walken's a song-and-dance man, not remembering his tango-turn in 1977's *Roseland*. These days, he shrugs off his terp skills. It was typical of mothers in his neck of Brooklyn to send their kids to dance class, he says. All his little street-tough buddies tapped. They just didn't go on to become film stars with a hoofing ace in the hole. Or perhaps you're curious to see an actual member of MGM's 1950's musical roster, Timothy Rall. He was a little long in the tooth when he partnered La Streisand in *Funny Girl's Swan Lake* parody, and he's nearly past middle age in this movie, but along with Robert Fitch — the original Rooster in *Annie* — he's a brilliant vaudevillian.

It's Chicago, 1934. Roxie Hart's done her flash in the pan, the stock market has tumbled, and the Depression has cast its pall over everyone. Most particularly Arthur, played by Steve Martin in a brave assumption, only his second movie after having established himself as the wild and crazy guy in *The Jerk*. He's a sheet music salesman who believes a little too much in the rosy platitudes of the tunes he peddles. Reality doesn't stack up too well beside them. Trying to get to the dream world promised by the songs, the guy's borderline psychotic. Recoiling from a frigid wife, Arthur goes on the lam with Eileen (Bernadette Peters), a no-longer-virginal schoolteacher he's knocked up. Numb, dazed, al-

ready feeling pursued and guilty, he's wrongly accused of murder. And executed. As in dead. That's it. *Fin*.

Threepenny review

Pennies from Heaven is a pretty bleak movie. Except for those amazing musical numbers, which keep showing how swell things ought to be, or offering jolly ironic comment. And except for a tacked-on happy ending, which arrives like the Riding Messenger's Reprieve in *Threepenny Opera*. If that show can spare the accused's life, if a two-bit performer like Roxie Hart can be a hit in vaudeville, why can't Arthur and Eileen have a happy end? The movie's already made its point: life ain't a musical. And that's why we like musicals. *Pennies from Heaven* may be the first one without lies. The father of *Chicago*.

Unlike that movie, however, this one's razzle-dazzle isn't meant to soothe. All the movie's songs are lip-synched to period recordings, which announces the disjunct between reality and dreams. Yes, it's ironic that Bernadette Peters doesn't get to sing with her own voice, but the remarkable acting chops she displays are all hers, as well as some swellegant dancing. Despite the lip-synch, and other Brechtian devices, the dialogue scenes have a rap intensity that's nearly uncomfortable, yet highly emotional.

The movie is visually thrilling, with an alternately lustrous and



Bernadette Peters plays Eileen

then parched color palette for sets that distill our memories of the period by recreating paintings of Edward Hopper and Reginald Marsh, and photographs of Walker Evans. There are theatrical devices rarely used in cinema, and exciting *coup de théâtre*: in the Astaire/Rogers recreation, I'm thrilled every time the stylishly tapping canes of the top-hatted gentlemen of the chorus begin to grow, becoming prison bars that quite literally tell the characters, "There's no escape."

Once called "a musical tintured in sorrow and evil," *Pennies from Heaven* was a flop. It was uncompromising, ahead of its time, and carried the remarkably heavy burden of resurrecting the MGM musical — with completely antithetical material. It's a strange stew of MGM musical, murder movie, and film noir. But how brilliantly it's simmered. Condemned to hell when it opened, it's been in limbo until now. Discover it. ▼



Hand-drawn art and graphics on skateboard decks at Yerba Buena Center.

Beautiful Losers

◀ page 34

print "NYC Collage" throws in manipulative, gratuitous hardcore youth sex scenes among his gritty snaps of hip hoppers in repose.

High-fashion photographer Terry Richardson mounts photos of a teddy bear astride his impressive hard-on, or poses, *Hustler* magazine-style, with brazen, confident, topless female subjects.

Ryan McGinness layers silkscreens of empty, generic corporate icons over primitive yet elegant Fleur de Lys mutations and rococo flourishes, what one might term "Adobe Gothic," bearing resemblance to Kara Walker's antebellum paper-cutout silhouettes.

Ryan McGinley's intimate, candid, large-color photos of his Lower East Side posse descend directly from Nan Goldin's diary of an earlier tribe.

In Cheryl Dunn's affecting video *Come Mute*, a weary secretary gets energized by sidewalk traffic and imparts her spirit to other women through modern/Afro-Haitian dance.

Pool footage

Craig Stecyk III documented Dogtown, outlaw skateboarding's incubator, where long-haired street urchins bastardized surfing in dried-up Santa Monica pools. A '70s *Skateboarder* magazine photoessayist, Stecyk's vintage black-and-white photocollage demonstrates the sport's unruly attitude and icons, and might remind one of Kenneth Anger's presentation of bad-boy props in *Scorpio Rising*.

Wes Humpston's hand-drawn, felt-pen winged and flaming phoenixes and Old English typography on three Dogtown wooden skateboards carry the show's most authentic star power.

Organizers cleverly included Keith Haring's universal cartoon imagery, in "Untitled Subway

Drawing." Haring used advertising territory to yank art off its rarefied pedestal. But Warhol's silkscreened Converse sneakers, exemplifying his comfort with commercial themes, feel shoehorned into the precursors display.

The legendary '70s subway aerosol artist Futura's geometric shapes and bright colors in "Lenny's Lesson" recall Kandinsky's mood-projecting line and form.

An ephemera display begins with 100 colorful decks (the board on a skateboard) sporting, among other images, Charles Manson, Osama bin Laden, Metallica, Black Flag and Abbie Hoffman, illustrating skate shops' voracious appetite for commodifying fresh young design talent.

A collection of plastic anime robot toys, zines, magazines like *Nylon*, *Tokion* and *Giant Robot*, and album cover art all reference the iconic skate aesthetic.

Bottles of Krink metallic paint, favored by illicit muralists, set beside Nike skating shoes lend the giant apparelmaker, the show's partial underwriter, rebel cred only money can buy.

In the Rose and Strike-designed Resource Room display, eight monitors feature homemade 8mm film and guerrilla videos of skaters ollieing up to grind down a handrail, a skater's downy derriere kickflipping to Fats Domino's "The Sun's Gonna Shine on My Back Door Someday," or sneaking onto construction sites to hesh unfinished swimming pools; Beastie Boys music videos; and Cheryl Dunn's poetic *Licking the Bowl*. Like dance, bodies gliding through space innately complement the moving image. ▼

Beautiful Losers runs through October 10 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Info: (415) 978-2787.



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Cruising to Cabrillo on wings of song

Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music kicks off in Santa Cruz

by Jason Victor Serinus

The drive from San Francisco to Santa Cruz is shorter than to Guerneville, the remnants of California's hippie museum a kick, and the music so excellent that the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music has won the First Place Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and the American Symphony Orchestra for 22 consecutive years. Yet, inexplicably, relatively few Bay Area residents take the scenic drive to Santa Cruz to enjoy the extraordinary offerings of a festival founded by the late Dean of American gay composers, Lou Harrison.

If anything can entice music-lovers to dip their big toes in the waters of the Coast, this year's lesbian and gay-rich programming should. Under the direction of

no-Sonnenberg, guitarist Sharon Isbin, a member of the Kronos Quartet, and composers Jennifer Higdon, Thomas Adès and the late Camille Saint-Saëns.

Cabrillo kicks off Tuesday night, August 3, with a special Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium evening with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. After performing the world premiere of Clarice Assad's Violin Concerto, the quirky violinist acknowledges the past by playing works by Saint-Saëns and Jules Massenet.

Friday night's Vespertine Orchestra concert features works by three of America's most prominent new music composers. Kevin Puts (Rome Prize winner and former composer-in-residence with the California Symphony) offers his *Vespertine Symphonies*, Julia Wolfe of Bang on a Can invites the Kronos Quartet to perform the US premiere of *My Beautiful Scream*, and San Francisco favorite Aaron Jay Kernis spins out his *Color Wheel*.

The August 7-8 weekend offers two evening concerts plus the all-weekend Music Art Food & Wine Festival, Saturday's Lunch with the Composers, and Sunday's Family Concert. Saturday night's orchestral fete includes West Coast premieres of David T. Little's *Screamers*, a three-ring blur for orchestra (winner of the 2004 Jacob Druckman Prize from the Aspen Music Festival) and Cabrillo favorite Christopher Rouse's *Concerto per Corde*. The addition of Oliver Knussen's *Flourish with Fireworks* and Jennifer Higdon's Concerto for Orchestra (recently recorded by Telarc) make for quite an enticing evening.

Kronos flies

Sunday evening heralds the Kronos Quartet's 30th anniversary recital. The expectedly adventurous program includes works by Bernard Herrmann, Gëtzschew Mëkurya, Terry Riley (an excerpt



Kronos Quartet's 30th anniversary recital should prove to be adventurous.

from his latest collaboration with Kronos, *Sun Rings*), Michael Gordon, Alexandra du Bois, Alfred Schnittke, and Sigur Rós.

On Saturday night, August 14, Alsop showcases three of our finest living male composers. If Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Three Screaming Popes* is guaranteed to

rouse more than John Paul and George W., Berkeley's Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Adams' *The Dharma at Big Sur* (with Tracy Silverman on electric violin) is certain to make them wish that they had chosen paths of truth. The finale, Thomas Adès' brilliant *Asyla*, will leave the audi-

ence cheering and the forces of stasis issuing red alerts about impending chaos.

Sunday afternoon and evening's Grand Finale features the Festival's sole performances at Mission San Juan Bautista. If you think Mission Dolores has great acoustics, the sonic tidal waves that overwhelm audiences in Mission San Juan Bautista are not to be believed.

The Grand Finale begins with Jennifer Higdon's gorgeous *Blue Cathedral*. Written in memory of Higdon's late brother, this short, shimmering composition, a standout on Telarc's recent *Rainbow Body* surround-sound CD, will greatly benefit from the crystalline purity of the Mission's acoustic. Next come contributions from two of Cabrillo's favorite composers, Christopher Rouse and James MacMillan. From Rouse comes his Grammy Award-winning *Concert de Gaudi* (with Sharon Isbin on guitar), while MacMillan offers the West Coast Premiere of his *Tryst*. ▼

Cabrillo Music Festival, Aug. 3-15, Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium & Mission San Juan Bautista. Tickets: (831) 420-5260 (press 5), www.cabrillomusic.org.



Simon Fowler

Maestra Marin Alsop conducts.

Marin Alsop, generally recognized as the leading female conductor of the Western world, the festival offers confirmed and speculated lesbian and gay contributions from the Maestra, violinist Nadja Sal-

Touch of Pink

◀ Arts cover

denly it all made sense. In *That Touch of Mink*, Doris Day plays a poor secretary who meets Cary Grant, who's a millionaire, and at the end, of course, they get married. I imagine my mother went to London to find her Cary Grant, and that's really how *Touch of Pink* began.

In his captivating new comedy, Rashid reinvents the coming out story, imagining an idealized alter ego, Alim (Jimi Mistry), who channels the spirit of Cary Grant (Kyle MacLachlan) to help him through the minefield of his increasingly complicated adult life. Alim, also raised in Canada, is living in London with a strawberry blonde sweetheart named Giles (Kristen Holden-Reid), who has yet to meet Alim's mother, Nuru

(Suleka Matthew). Nuru is living in Toronto under the illusion that her precious son is a very eligible bachelor waiting for his mom to find him a proper Muslim girl.

Nuru will come to London, barge in on Alim and Giles, pushing them back in the closet and, in a very unsettling touch, try to steal Giles as her Cary Grant. This forces Alim, with the spirit of Cary as his romantic advisor, to stand up to his mother. This slice of farce mixes with a Toronto Muslim wedding in which Alim's cousin (and former secret fuck-buddy) Khaled (Raoul Bhaneja) comes on to Alim after a drunken bachelor party.

The film is a spirited concoction: one part romantic comedy like the ones Grant so gorgeously inhabited in the '50s, one part fantasy farce like *Harvey* (a grownup Jimmy Stewart talks to an invisible rabbit), and one part

sardonic collision between traditional, chaste Muslim dating rituals and the very off-kilter universe of Western same-sex bars, Y&Mance and closeted cohabitation.

Rashid, who lives in London with lover Peter and two cats, labored over *Pink* for over a decade, in-between stints as a British TV writer. Born in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and raised in Toronto, Rashid also had an ocean between him and his traditional Muslim parents. "They had to adjust if they wanted to be a part of my adult life."

Warming trend

To play Alim, an idealized version of himself, Rashid knew he needed an especially striking performer. By chance, he spied his guy on a London stage. "One night I saw Jimi Mistry in *East Is East*. He's very charismatic, and

next page ▶

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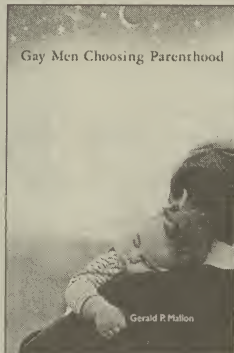
by Jim Nawrocki

Gay Men Choosing Parenthood by Gerald P. Mallon; Columbia, \$21.95

Families Like Mine: Children of Gay Parents Tell It Like It Is by Abigail Garner; HarperCollins, \$24.95

In light of the recent debate over gay marriage, Gerald P. Mallon's *Gay Men Choosing Parenthood* and Abigail Garner's *Families Like Mine* are certainly timely. Both books, according to their prologues, grew out of the authors' very personal connection to their subject matter. Mallon relates how he met his current partner, a single gay parent, and became wedded to the cause as well as to the man. Garner describes how her own status as a straight child of gay parents shaped her desire to understand and give voice to that very disparate community. Both authors state that their respective books are not how-to manuals as much as extensive examinations of how gay parents and their children are challenging the traditional conception of the family.

Mallon's book focuses exclusively on gay men, specifically on



20 gay fathers from New York City and Los Angeles who began their lives as parents in the 1980s. As an associate professor of social work at Hunter College, and director of the college's National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning, Mallon brings a clinician's rigor to his subject matter. He demonstrates a solid grasp of the research and quotes amply from the literature, but he also allows his many interview subjects to speak in their own words. His well-reasoned examination of gay fatherhood is supported with extensive input from the men

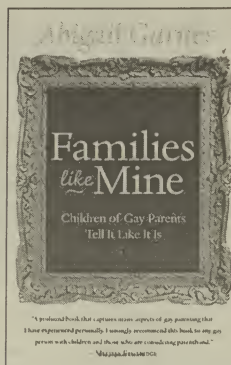
who live gay fatherhood as a reality every day.

Granted, this subject is close to Mallon's heart. He is clearly not dispassionate about the topic, and this is welcome. In chapters that chronicle the process of becoming a gay father, creating a family, and experiencing the community's response to gay fathers, Mallon maps the intricacies and frustrations of the process through the words of those who have gone through it. He also demonstrates, quite convincingly, the absurdity of the homophobic opponents to gay fatherhood, and of the government's policy-based discrimination against gay parents.

Children power

Garner's book is equally heartfelt and just as thorough in its exploration of the nature of queer parenthood. In Garner's view, the unique population that she belongs to, the children of LGBT parents, is "quickly becoming more visible," and she attempts to give this population a voice through extensive interviews with its members. She approaches her project with an engaging, friendly prose style and a charming dose of humor.

Although Garner professes that her book is not a manual for gay parents and their children,



there is nonetheless a practical feel to this book. After presenting a helpful overview of the subject, she examines such issues as the coming-out process for gay parents, the challenges that gay parents and their children face when

the parents go through a breakup, the struggles of children of gay parents as they confront the attitudes of the world outside their family, the impact of AIDS, and the sexuality of the children of queer parents. In tackling such issues, Garner makes it clear that her book takes into account "all of [these families'] experiences, not just the moments suitable for photo albums."

Mallon and Garner provide important and much-needed chronicles of an emerging and evolving portion of American society, the queer family. While both authors acknowledge the diversity of this population, they also remind us of how much these families share with families everywhere. ▼

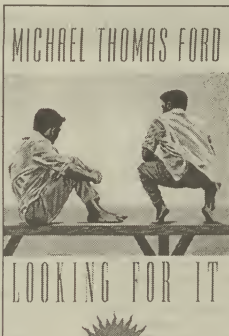
Extended families

by Jim Piechota

Looking For It by Michael Thomas Ford; Kensington Books, \$23

In Michael Thomas Ford's second fictive effort, a small town in upstate New York sets the scene for seven engaging gay men bound by the yearnings of the young and old.

In Cold Falls, small-town rules apply even for the gay folk, and this particular gang looms large. There's Russell and John, whose relationship is suffering from a seven-year-itch; Mike, a hunky bartender at the Engine Room, a gay "Cheers"-like bar; Episcopal priest Thomas Dunn, who harbors a burgeoning crisis of faith; Stephen, a tax accountant who lives next door to his overbearing parents and regularly escapes to hook up on various Internet chat rooms; and lonely, mid-60s



Simon, an Engine Room regular, who finds life pointless.

After Russell and John's failed attempt to fix Stephen up with their friend Greg, Stephen runs off to an adult cinema and gets violently pummeled by a self-loathing closeted mechanic

named Pete. Elsewhere, love blossoms between Mike and Father Thomas, who meet accidentally during a blizzard. Russell and Greg try dating, but find it's just too complicated.

Meanwhile, Pete's homophobic rage resurfaces, and he nearly kills Greg after a bad Internet hookup. A hospitalized Stephen comes out to his family. Pete gets his comeuppance, and major life changes occur for everyone, even newly love-struck Simon.

Since the novel is set over the holidays, Ford's depiction of the group's Thanksgiving and Christmas "extended family" gatherings will be touching and familiar to city-bound readers. Contemporary social issues like religion, the nature of family, gay marriage, and the allure of country life are tossed around. Ford handles his broad, diverse cast with amazing ease, and demonstrates a natural gift for storytelling. ▼

Touch of Pink

◀ previous page

the thing about Alim is that he's a very dour figure in some ways, and Jimi's got something that the camera really loves. Alim is warmed by him, and that's what I wanted."

Mistry, introduced to American audiences in the bouncy parody of Indian Bollywood-style musicals *The Guru*, says he loved the conceit in *Touch of Pink*, but wondered how he would pull it off. "The other characters are more dynamic in what they're saying and doing, but without Alim at the center, none of it really makes sense. The challenge was to do that as well as working with the imaginary Cary Grant. Alim is quite neurotic, quite mad in a way. He's got a lot of issues that he has to unravel."

Kyle MacLachlan had one of the screen's most incendiary debuts in the role of Jeffrey Beaumont, a young man who encounters a very dark alter ego/shadow self in David Lynch's harrowing yet funny exploration of small-town life's criminal underbelly, *Blue Velvet*. Asked by Rashid to play the spirit of Cary Grant, MacLachlan knew he had to produce more than a stand-up-like impersonation. He says he studied Tony Curtis' fabled Grant send-up in the Billy Wilder-directed gender-farce *Some Like It Hot*.

"*Some Like It Hot* was an integral part in the creation of the character. I found that the imitation that Tony Curtis did — or the homage, I guess — of Cary Grant was very helpful in learning the voice and an extreme version of his physicality. So I watched that film a lot, along with *His Girl Friday* and *To Catch a Thief*."

"Our hero, Alim, when he calls upon Cary for help, his image of Cary is stolen from any number of films that he's seen growing up. There was no real continuity in terms of my wardrobe, it was always just popping in and popping out from *The Bishop's Wife*, *The Awful Truth* or whatever film happened to suit the scene."

MacLachlan says, as a film actor, he was amazed at the tight parameters within which Grant plied his art, how he could move with such grace onscreen while boxed in by the technical limits of film. "He was a tumbler and physically active all of his life, with a certain grace and eloquence that a natural athlete would have. A key for me was understanding how he moved his body within the frame. A lot had to do with where the light was positioned in relation to his face and the back of his head."

page 44 ►

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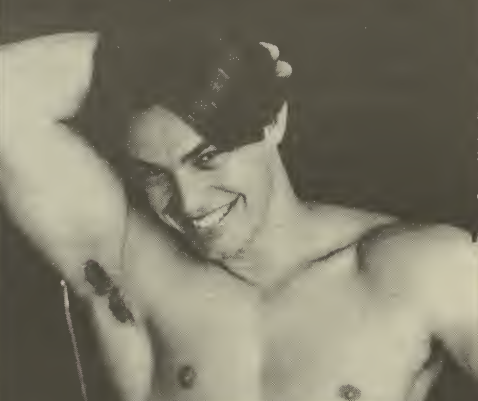
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon

k.d. to Dore Alley

It's been a wild, wonder-filled week for your calendar editor, replete with hot and hunky mostly shirtless men packing **Dore Alley** and environs for the **Up Your Alley Fair** on a muggy, sunny Sunday. It felt great to revel among the masses, with everyone in a cheery mood. Friends and I dashed there directly from the **Stern Grove Festival**, where as always a grand show was put on, in this case with **Gamelan Sekar Jaya**, decked out in spectacular costumes, playing out an intricate Balinese opera revolving around the gods. They shared the bill with Indian percussionist **Trilok Gurtu** and his pop ensemble, which included a lead guitarist who made his distinctly Western instrument sound like a droning sitar. Naturally I had started off my Sunday doing tai-chi/qigong in Golden Gate Park with my **Swimming Dragon** group, and we all brunchd at a dim sum restaurant on Clement St. in the Richmond, so my "Day Out Of Time" (the 365th day of the Thirteen Moon, Mayan-based calendar) was marked by astonishing diversity.

The highlight of my week came at the **San Francisco Symphony**, where I was invited by my new-found friend and bon-vivant-about-town **Remy Charlip**, legend to generations who've grown up with his children's books (*Arm in Arm*; *Little Old Big Beard* and *Big Young Little Beard*, etc.) and witnessed his dancing and choreography. He wanted us to experience the amazing **k.d. lang** belting out songs with what Remy calls "the voice of the century," and he should know, having known many of the greats in his long life. Remy discovered k.d. only recently, and took friends to both nights of k.d.'s show to catch the diva live, backed up by her great band and the strings of the San Francisco Symphony.

As part of her program, k.d. sang songs reflecting her Canadian heritage, penned by the likes of Joni Mitchell, Leonard Cohen, Neil Young, and Jane Siberry, and no artist could have produced more magnificent tributes to those other great artists, in whose august league k.d. ranks as an equal. Her own songs, many of which have become classics over the last decade, sounded fresh and newly soul-stirring, including *Constant Craving*, *Miss Chatelaine*, *Don't Smoke in Bed* and others we've come to adore. The down-to-earth shoeless beauty, who moves on stage with grace and exhibits a warm sense of humor, has come light years since she debuted big-time with *Ingenue* in 1992, when she and Kurt Cobain were out front (and she was out, period) shaking up pop culture.

Also marking my week was the opening of playwright **Harry C. Cronin's Dark Matter** at **Jon Sims Center for the Arts**, presented by JSC/Alchemy Emerging Playwrights, and directed by **Alan S. Quismorio**. A major talent, young, dynamic actor **Pete Caslavka**, carried off a bravura one-man performance, portraying several characters caught up in the drama of a priest sent to prison for molesting a youth. Caslavka exhibited an astonishing feat of memorization, taking us through a long, wordy play without a hitch, never once slacking in energy, falling out of characterization, or faltering for motivation.



Pete Caslavka

He's wondrous to look at, not in an objectifying way, but in the way you'd watch a bull-fighter dodging horns, simultaneously at ease with himself and intensely focused. Caslavka played the roles of the disgraced priest; the thug who protects him in jail in order to secure prayers; the boy who was molested; the boy's father; and the young gangster inmate offered to the priest by his protector as a fuckable "gift." Caslavka pulled off dazzling feats of characterization, crafting believable personalities that came off cleanly and clearly outlined, all resonating distinctively. The actor portrayed the betrayed youth solidly as confused, angry, and prideful, but ultimately forgiving. The characters I least cared for were the father, who was written and played as a simpering wimp, for no good reason other than to mock straight masculinity. The fallen priest himself was just plain annoying, the kind of whiny, tragic gay character we've all seen too often. The self-loathing priest's tearful whimpering did, however, get tempered by his tough-as-nails prison stay, so progress was made. Redemption did, after an unduly long time, seem possible. ▼



k.d. lang

Fri

Mary Armentrout @ 848 Community Space

Local dance-theater rule-breaker Mary Armentrout presents "Solo Musings on Complicated Topics in a Surreal World," an evening of new and recent solo works. Known for her experiments on the edge of hybrid dance-theater fusion, Armentrout is a choreographer whose work lives at the intersection of dance, theater and object art. Her choreography consists of small fragments of text and movement that are distilled, distorted, polished, and deconstructed to reveal layers of ambiguity, pathos, and absurdity. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8:30pm July 31 & 31, August 6 & 7. Located at 848 Divisadero (at McAllister). Tix: 510-845-8604.

So In Love: The Songs of Cole Porter @ NCTC

Meg Mackay & Billy Philadelphia perform *So In Love: The Songs of Cole Porter*, one of America's best-loved, most-sophisticated songwriters. The duo of Mackay and Philadelphia make waves with such enduring hits as *Night and Day*, *Just One of Those Things*, *Begin the Beguine*, *Let's Do It (Let's Fall in Love)* and the title song from the 1948 Broadway show (and 1955 movie) *Kiss Me*, Kate. \$25 Fri. & Sat. (8pm); \$20 Sun. matinee (3pm). Thru Aug. 8. New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 415-861-8972; www.nctc.org

Dark Matter

@ Jon Sims Center
JSC/Alchemy Emerging Playwrights at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSC) presents actor Pete Caslavka in playwright Harry C. Cronin's *Dark Matter*. Directed by Alan S. Quismorio. *Dark Matter* tackles the controversies that have in recent years catapulted the Roman Catholic faith into public and media scrutiny. \$15-\$20 sliding. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm; Sun. at 6:30pm. Thru Aug. 8. JSC, 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

The Escape Artists @ Off-Market Studio

The Escape Artists, a late night show with long form improvisation who aim to improvise a number of stories using their ability to transition from scene to scene and, at the end of the night, to "escape" with all storylines woven together. Cast: Ann Feehan, Aaron Task, Mick Laugs, Katherine Murphy, Sylvia Kratins and Nick Leonard. 10:30pm. Off-Market Studio, 965 Mission at Fifth St. Tix: (415) 896-6477; www.cafearts.com

Andrea Marcovicci

@ Empire Plush Room
The marvelous Andrea Marcovicci enchants the Empire Plush Room with an all-new musical show, *Andrea Does Astaire*. She's a legend at the Algonquin Hotel Oak Room and has performed at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall and Carnegie Hall, as well as with symphonic orchestras across the country and stage productions on Broadway and locally at A.C.T. \$35 & \$40. Tue-Sat at 8pm; Sun. at 3pm. Thru Aug. 1. Tix: 415-885-2800. Info: www.yorkhotel.com

Carbon Community @ Shadow Lounge

FLUX at Shadow Lounge presents live breakfasts with Carbon Community (Moonshine/Bless Records). This duo based out of Dallas, TX will make their first SF appearance, doing a live performance to rock your senses and blow your mind. Also: A-Dub (Breakthru); Icon (Mach 5, Sister NYC, djicon.com); Aaron Jae (AaronJae.com/Evil Breaks); DJ Bam (Invibe/Evil Breaks); M.O.D. (Evil Breaks). \$5 before 11pm. Going strong from 9pm-3am.

21+ w/ID. The Shadow Lounge, 299 9th St. (at Folsom). Info: www.theCarbonCommunity.com

Speed the Plow

@ Off Market Theater

Opening night: La Vache Enrage Productions presents *Speed the Plow*, David Mamet's darkly comic examination of sexual politics, deal-making and manipulation in Hollywood. Powerful Producer Bobby Gould targets his new secretary Karen as his next conquest. But Karen is more than she seems, and suddenly the lines of power are uncomfortably blurred. Directed by Brian Katz. Featuring: Jeff Bredt, Jennifer Dean and Richard Wenzel. \$17 gen'l, \$15 Students/Seniors. 8pm Friday-Sunday, July 30-August 15. Off-Market Theater, 965 Mission St. (at Fifth St.). Tix/info: 415-896-6477; www.lveproductions.com

Becca and Heidi

@ Exit Theatre Cafe

The Shee Theatre Company presents *Becca and Heidi*, a comedy by Bay Area playwright Sharon Eberhardt, directed by Virginia Reed. Surgical nurse Becca's alter ego, Heidi, is braver, funnier, smarter, sexier and a better listener. Racing to catch up, Becca juggles two new boyfriends and to remember the "great sex." Everyone loves Heidi, but can she be trusted with a bone file, a broken bottle and keys to the animal research lab? \$20 gen'l; \$15 student/senior. 8:30pm Thru. Fri. & Sat. thru Aug. 7. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy St. Tix: 510-612-1074; www.thehee.org

Adrian Tomine

@ Cody's Books, Berkeley

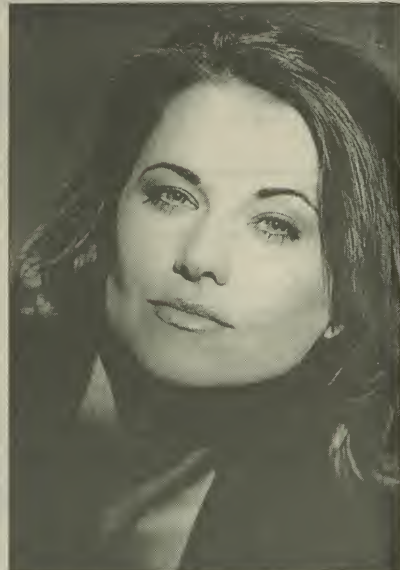
Reading and book signing: Adrian Tomine's *Scrapbook: Uncollected Work: 1990-2004*. Tomine has been writing and drawing the comic book series *Optic Nerve* for more than a decade, all the while working on side projects. The best of this extracurricular work, including rare & unpublished strips for album covers, posters, advertisements, and such magazines as *The New Yorker* and *Esquire*, is collected for the first time in *Scrapbook*. Free. 7pm. Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. Info: www.codysbooks.com

HIFY @ CNYD

HIFY — Health Initiatives for Youth — offers a one-day "Provider Training" at Community Network for Youth Development (CNYD), open to youth workers, health care workers, counselors, parents, and all people who strive to create a healthy environment for youth. During interactive trainings, participants gain practical skills in working with youth, explore trends in adolescent health and share their experiences serving youth from many communities. This training introduces HIFY's perspective on youth and health. "We explore youth development theory, the values underlying HIFY's work with youth, and how to apply an asset-based approach to youth health issues." Includes strategies for applying youth development in both health care settings and youth agencies, as well as a chance to hear and



Lindsay Anderson plays in The Shee Theatre company's *Becca and Heidi* at Exit Theatre Cafe. See Friday.



Lucy Lawless joins a host of celebs for *Help is On The Way X: Broadway*... and all that jazz. See Monday.

share best practices. 9am-5pm. CNYD, 657 Mission Street, Suite 410 (btwn 2nd & 3rd streets).

Caucasian Chalk Circle @ John Hinkel Park, Berkeley

Shotgun Players present their annual summer extravaganza: Bertolt Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, directed by Cliff Mayotte, written at the close of WWII and set in the Caucasus Mtns. of Georgia. Come to John Hinkel Park and participate in the fable of the Chalk Circle! See two women claim the same child! Who is the real mother — a stranger who risks everything, or the mother who abandons her child, then changes her mind? Politically savvy, wickedly humorous and filled with music, *Caucasian Chalk Circle* retells the tale of King Solomon and a child claimed by and fought over by two mothers. But this chalk circle is metaphorically drawn around a society misdirected in its priorities. 4pm Sat. & Sun. thru Aug. 29. John Hinkel Park, Berkeley. Info: www.shotgunplayers.org

Queer Swing Dance w/Salsa!

@ The Center

Queer Jitterbugs present a "Queer Swing Dance with Salsa!" Fun for everyone! No partner or experience needed. 7pm Basic Salsa lesson. 8pm Basic Swing lesson. 9pm-Midnight Swing Dance with Salsa. Vintage attire and comfortable shoes encouraged. Under 21 get in free. Over 21 only \$10 (half off with Queer Swing Pass; volunteers get in free; NOTAFLOF). SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 415-305-8242; QueerJitterbugs.com or Queer-Ballroom.com

Fauxgirls!

@ Marlena's

Special Benefit Show: *Fauxgirls!* creator Victoria Secret presents "An Evening with the (Alternative) Empresses!" A very special

drag revue to benefit the 40th Anniversary of the Imperial Court of San Francisco! Guest Stars will present parody portrayals of past. Hosted by Victoria (as Empress XXV Marlena) and Anjelica (as Empress XXXIII Alexis Miranda), and featuring many special guest stars in parody performances of past Empresses of San Francisco. All performers welcome. The fun starts at 10pm. Never a cover at Marlena's. Marlena's, 488 Hayes St. (at Octavia). Info: 415-864-6672; www.fauxgirls.com

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans @ Pt. Reyes

Join Gay and Lesbian Sierrans (GLS) for a Pt. Reyes Mountain-to-Beach Frolic. This moderately strenuous 11.5-mile hike offers varied geography. Meet for car-pools at the Safeway at Church & Market at 8:30am, or at the Bear Valley Trailhead at 10am. Bring lunch, water, money for gas and bridge tolls, and layered clothing. Info: sfbay.sierraclub.org/GLS

Living w/ Hepatitis C @ Quan Yin Healing Arts Center

The Living with Hepatitis C Project at Quan Yin Healing Arts Center presents a free workshop, *Acupuncture Techniques and Mixi-bustion* focusing on chronic Hepatitis C (HCV) infection, with Carla Wilson, L.Ac. and Srinika Narayan, L.Ac. Open to all people living with HCV as well as their partners, family members and service providers. The workshop will start with a light breakfast at 9:30am and will end with a mini-qigong class (led by Laura Bresler) at 12 noon. Info: Yukihiro Ippei Yasuda, 415-861-4964; email: ippei@quanyinhealingarts.com

\$un

One Black Day @ CAAACC & Main Library

Opening reception: The AfroSolo Theatre Company celebrates its 11th annual *AfroSolo Arts Festival* XI — a celebration of African American artists giving voice to the Black experience with the opening in two locations of *One Black Day: Pride, Dignity and Hope*, an exposition of images by African American photographers from the Bay Area and beyond. Free. Reception 6-7pm at the Sargent Johnson Gallery, Center for African & African American Art and Culture Complex (CAAACC), 762 Fulton St. The exhibit runs Aug. 1-Oct. 15 at CAAACC and the SF Main Public Library, 100 Larkin St. Info: 415-771-AFRO (2376); www.afrosolo.org

Once in a Blue Moon @ Dolores Park

San Francisco Gay Men's Community Initiative hosts "Once in a Blue Moon", a community picnic and opportunity for all kinds of gay men to come together in the spirit of fun and friendliness, to



The Shotgun Players offer a parable for our time in Bertolt Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* at Berkeley's John Hinkel Park. See Saturday.

venture outside of our bubbles and meet new people. A volleyball net will be supplied. Bring friends, roller blades, frisbees, and don't forget your balls! Bring your own food, and please leave the park litter-free. Gather at Dolores Park, near the tennis courts at 1pm. Info: SF Gay Men's Community Initiative, 415-552-9393; email sfgmci@yahoo.com.

BATS Improv's Summer Festival

@ Bayfront Theater
BATS Improv's 10th Annual Summer Improv Festival kicks off a month-long celebration of improvised comedy, drama and music, with 22 shows and more than 100 performers. With Guest Director Keith Johnstone, tonight (and Aug. 22 & 29) featuring "Sunday Player Micetro," in which The Sunday Players compete against one another in an improv elimination format; last one standing is crowned Micetro! Upcomings: Aussie Rules Theatreports (Aug. 5); Improvised Shakespeare (Aug. 7); Eat the Apple (Aug. 7 late night); The News Show (Aug. 12); All Star Micetro (Aug. 13); Gorilla Theatre (Aug. 14); Tonal Chaos (Aug. 14 late night); The Harold (Aug. 19); True Fiction Magazine (Aug. 20); Spontaneous Broadway (Aug. 21); BATS vs. LA Theatreports (Aug. 27); 3 For All (Aug. 28). Tonight: \$8. All shows 8pm. Bayfront Theater, Fort Mason Center. Tix/info: 415-474-8935; www.improv.org

choreography by Twyla Tharp), and the San Francisco Gay & Lesbian Freedom Band. Directed by David Galligan. Musical director: Ron Abel. Producers: Ken Henderson & Joe Seiler. Gala Reception: 5:30-7:30pm. Performance: 8-10:15pm. Cast Dessert Party: 10:15-11:45pm. Silent Auction begins 5:30pm. 100% of ticket sales goes directly to the beneficiaries: New Leaf Services for Our Community; UCSF AIDS Health Project; Center for AIDS Services, Oakland; Meals of Marin; and BAY (Bay Area Young) Positives. Dress: Black Tie/Festive Attire Suggested. \$150 & up for Gala with Dessert & Wine Party with Cast; \$75 performance only. Doors open 7:30pm for gen'l public. Palace of Fine Arts Theater, 3301 Lyon St. Tix: 415-273-1620. Info: www.helpisontheway.org

Short Leaps 3

@ Eureka Theatre
Three Wise Monkeys (3WM) Theatre Company presents *Short Leaps 3*, a 3WM Fundraiser featuring two programs of staged readings of short and very short plays by Bay Area Writers. The actual play list for *Short Leaps 3* is a cornucopia of fine writing. When requesting scripts for the event, 3WM imposes only one restriction: running time has to be fifteen minutes or less. The result is a feast of creativity and pleasure, a joy ride of fantasy with settings as different as a storage unit and your living room, characters as unique as a Japanese soldier and your grandmother, plots as diverse and poignant as imagination will allow. "Short Leaps" is a fundraising event to benefit the Fourth Annual Bay One-Acts Festival (BOA 4) to be held in February-March 2005. \$12 - \$20 Sliding. Plays Monday, August 2 and Tuesday, August 3 at 8pm.

Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson St.
Tix/info: 415-776-7427;
www.threewisemonkeys.org

Tue

Julie Budd

@ Empire Plush Room

Opening night: The Empire Plush Room in association with Michael Williams/Medium Rare Records presents Julie Budd, hailed as one of the most exciting singers today, having launched her career at the age of 12 in the famed resorts of New York's Catskill Mountains, followed by a major recording contract and appearance on the *Merv Griffin Show* and *The Tonight Show*. Subsequently she performed with Frank Sinatra, Bill Cosby, Joan Rivers, Liberace, and George Burns. Her one-woman show has been hailed from Atlantic City and Las Vegas to Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and Tel Aviv's Israel Arts Center, including appearances with symphony orchestras nationwide. Tue.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3pm, thru Aug. 15. Empire Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix/info: 415-885-2800; www.empireplushshows.com; www.juliebudd.com

Faerie Heart Circle

@ Magnet

Faerie heart circles are an opportunity to come together with other gay men to speak from the heart about our sexuality, spirituality, identity, community, and emotions. Come and listen, speak, share, and support one another as we undertake our journeys of discovery together. Join the Faeries at this monthly gathering at Magnet. Free. 8-10 pm. 4122 - 18th



Robert Henry Johnson, photographed by Jim Dennis, part of the exhibition *One Black Day 2* opening AfroSolo Arts Festival II. See Sunday.

St. Info: 415-581-1600.

Wed

Amy Tan's Immortal Heart @ Magic Theatre

Word for Word presents *Immortal Heart* by author Amy Tan. The story reveals a hidden world circumscribed by the powers of family and destiny, and the strict tenets of women's roles in rural China in the 1900s, in a realm circumscribed by family ties, ghosts, mystery, duty and love. \$27 (\$2 student/senior discount). Wed. is pay-what-you-can. 8:30pm Wed-Sat & Tue; 3pm Sun. Thru Aug. 8. Magic Theatre, Southside, Bldg. D., Fort Mason. Tix/info: 415-437-6775; www.zspace.org

Thu

RE/Search & Eleven @ Kearny Street Workshop

Kearny Street Workshop brings together counterculture icon V. Vale, founder and original publisher of "your essential counterculture library," *RE/Search*, and emerging writer and musician Gayle Romanita, founder and editor of CAA's new arts journal *Eleven*. Hear from the two artists as they discuss the trials, inspirational moments, and peculiarities of founding an arts publication. \$5 suggested donation. 7-9pm. Chinese Culture Center, 750 Kearny Street, 3rd floor (Holiday Inn Building). Info: 415-503-0520; www.kearnystreet.org

Live Nude Girls UNITE!

@ ATA Gallery

CUNext(Tuesday, the radical all-women's media collective, presents: *Live Nude Girls UNITE!* A benefit for CUNext(Tuesday). Directed by Julia Query, *Live Nude Girls UNITE!* is a documentary on the struggle for local peepshow establishment, the Lusty Lady, to unionize into an all-women worker-owned powerhouse! It's a poignant, often hilarious look at one woman's fight for fair wages and equal rights as an exotic dancer and the movement that resulted. \$5. 8pm. BYOPopcorn! ATA, 992 Valencia (at 21st). Info: ATA, 415-824-3890; www.ata-site.org; livenudegirlsunionite.com

SF Electronic Music Fest @ SomArts Cultural Center

The Fifth Annual San Francisco Electronic Music Festival kicking off tonight will be a three evening affair with an impressive and diverse list of participants. The works presented will span the sonic spectra from ambient to rhythmic and atonal to melodic. The line-up ranges from new and emerging young artists to respected pioneers of the electronic music field working in a variety of modes including: laptop generated sound, processed live acoustic instruments, amplified found objects, projected video, improvisation, and performance art. \$15 General; \$12 student; \$40 full festival pass. Runs August 5-7, 8pm, at SomArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St. Info: Festival hotline, 415-861-3257; SomArts 415-552-2131; www.sfmf.org

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
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Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

Hot Fridays Latino Club

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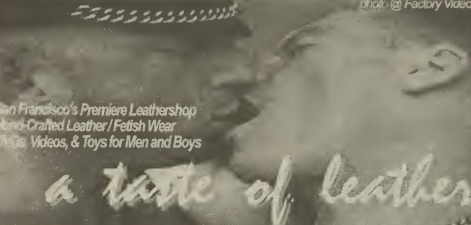
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Glorious leather weekend

Doug Mezzacapo is Leather Daddy XXII

by Mister Marcus

Somebody up there likes us! Mother Nature shed sunny, balmy weather on San Francisco all last week. By Thursday, hordes of leather men and women from around the world converged on the jewel of Northern California for the biggest "little" fair in a city known for neighborhood street fairs of all types.

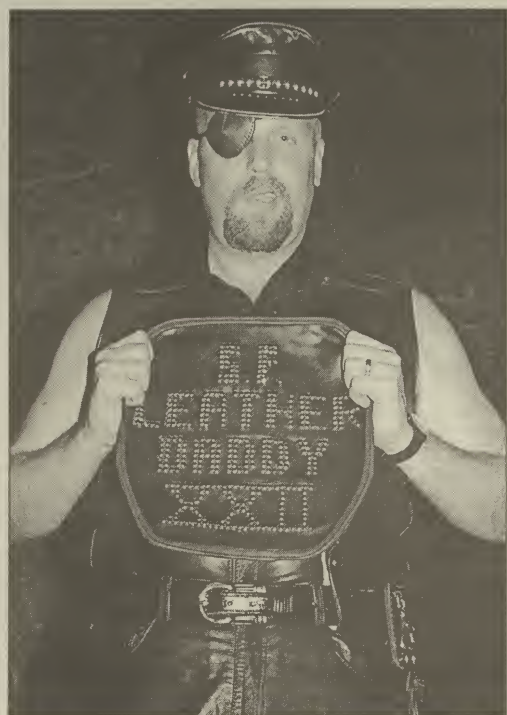
Not only "circuit queens" were here, but the newbies, their friends and people of all persuasions came to party, eat, drink, get laid and celebrate the leather lifestyle which, in this town, is an every-day thing for inhabitants.

Thursday night, the Powerhouse was hopping with a pre-Dore Alley Fair party hosted by Troy Anicete, which was a benefit for the Leather Archives & Museum. Michael Brandon emceed and Lenny Broberg was the auctioneer while former IM Boot-black Richie Chameroy was shining boots for the cause. When it was all over, some \$1,942 was raised. Good show!

On Friday night, July 23, only two men stepped out to compete for the SF Leather Daddy XXII title at the Eagle Tavern which was wall to wall leather. Jay Hemphill and Doug Mezzacapo went through the interviews earlier with former leather daddy judges Patrick Batt, Andre English, Peter Fiske, Jason Ladd and Leather Daddy's Boy Joey Sequeira. Tom Rodgers and Tony Koester were the masters of ceremonies and injected enough humor and sarcasm into the proceedings to last a millennium.

Jay and Doug (the contestants) were spiffy in leathers and quite thorough with their speeches. Knowledgeable insiders agreed that either one could/would do a good job with the title. In case you didn't know it, this is a "working" title. Candidates necessarily need to have a "track record" of volunteerism, mentoring, community involvement and fund raising.

After several raffle announcements, welcoming out of towners and other leather title holders (and there were plenty of those!),



San Francisco Leather Daddy XXII Doug Mezzacapo was chosen for the title last Friday, July 23 at the Eagle Tavern.

David Meyer had finished his tallying chores. But before that, Peter Fiske gave a short and sweet 9-minute "stepping aside" speech after which he was serenaded (now a MUST tradition) by Donna Sachet who humorously delivered "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" to much applause.

Doug Mezzacapo was named Leather Daddy XXII to much cheering and clapping. It was another one of those nights where leather pride was on parade. Big crowd, big title, big event.

Will Clark's Bad Boys Pool Party on Saturday afternoon was deemed a success by those who attended, and my informants said the crowd was not all that big. Considering the ticket prices (\$60 advance, \$70 at the door), it was

good to see the "faithful" in attendance. Also on Saturday night the bars and restaurants all over town were jam packed with locals and visitors alike.

As I said earlier, Sunday was a glorious day weather-wise, and by noon, hordes of people jammed into a block long Folsom Street and Dore Alley. The Powerhouse was completely full most of the day, and Carlton Paul and all the other bartenders were sweating profusely keeping the crowd happy with adult beverages.

Scores of people continued with their hedonism at the Fusion dance party. Dean and Silvio and their crew managed to keep the cha-cha types in motion and from all reports, a good time was had by all. Leather men from Berlin, Amsterdam, Madrid, Australia, England and Canada were here

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, July 30-31

Joel Klingsbury and Robbi Montoya step aside for their successors at the 13th Annual Mr. and Ms. Alameda County Leather contests this weekend. Meet and greet at the Turf Club on Friday 15 1900; the contest is Saturday at 1830 at the Hill & Valley Club in Hayward.

Friday, July 30

"Hustler a No No Party" at the Powerhouse tonight around 2100 — something to do with their softball team.

Women's dungeon party at The Citadel (245 - 8th St) from 2100 to 0100 tomorrow, with a \$20 donation for the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. RSVP by Email to: ttbb@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, August 4

Blow Buddies celebrate their 16th anniversary tonight at 2100. Doors open until 2300. \$6 (half price) for current and/or renewing members. Strict dress code. Info at www.blowbuddies.com/man/html.

Weekend, August 6-8

Ms. World Leather (Sunday) and International

Deaf Leather contest (Friday night) in Dallas Texas at the Sheraton Brookhollow. For reservations (214) 630-7000.

In Palm Springs at the Barracks Bar, Palm Springs Leather Sir/boy contests beginning at 2200. Winners advance to the So. California Leather Sir/boy competition later this year. Victory celebration on Sunday afternoon.

Saturday, August 7

Darryl Janssen steps aside to sash his successor to the Mr. Hayes Valley Leather 2005 contest at Marlena's Bar from 2000 to 2400.

Sunday, August 8

"Mama's Whipping Post" event at Daddy's from 1600 to 2000. Beer/soda bust, entertainment, raffles. Winner gets that title, and it's hosted by No. California Sir Brian and boy Roger.

Weekend, August 13-15

Northern California Leather Sir & boy contest weekend at Fife's at the Russian River. Info: www.nocalslb.com. Questions? Email to: SFRayTil-ton@aol.com.

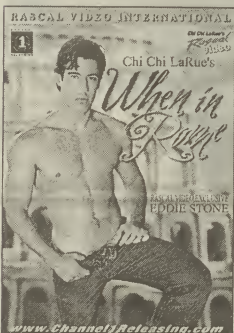
Savory sweetmeats

by John F. Karr

Eddie Stone made his debut in the last scene of Chi Chi LaRue's *Take One for the Team*, four episodes of athlete buddies getting it on. That was appropriate casting for Stone, who's the team captain type. He's tall and sturdy, naturally muscled, with striking looks. His lushly full lips have a cello's deep curves and a shockingly hot pink color.

Heavy eyebrows shade dark flashing eyes, and inky, rich black hair crowns his head. He's given to lots of foreplay, which was abetted by the prescribed apparel for his debut, a Speedo. Inside it lay a hefty, full-headed tool.

Stone's a luscious rimmer, and one helluva cocksucker. More frequently a bottom than a top, he's a frequent flip-flopper, which was a surprise filip of this first film. Yet he's not a flashy performer. Sex isn't a collision course for Stone. If you like it slow, simmering and savory, Eddie's your man. Star material, alright.



So he was given the central role in *When in Rome*. Unfortunately, it was ill-designed to highlight what Eddie had to offer. A cursory tour of Rome's highlights only foreshadows brusque sex, accompanied by pushy music and bumptious editing. Makes the movie not quite as insouciant as other recent LaRue efforts, and not quite as rewarding. When a mugger takes off with Eddie's backpack, he trustingly accepts an invitation for a weekend in the country from a suspiciously solicitous young man (Joe Foster). Once there, Eddie's left alone in the courtyard of the ancient stone villa long enough to realize he's been locked in, while inside, his

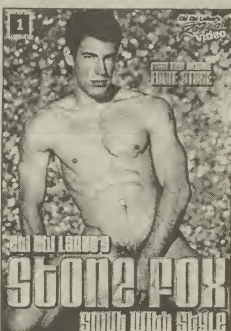
captors gloat and have sex together. They're a husky, hairy dreamboat and a suave, slightly older companion.

Finally finding the one intentionally unlocked door, Eddie encounters a sex-crazed Italian in the subcellar, where he has crazed, subcellar sex. Eddie's berry-red lips are a rather pornographic frame for Leonardo Ricci's tawny Italian cock. This *ragazzo's* asshole is as broad a conduit as the Span-

ish Steps, so we assume it's as frequently filled with boys. But surprise — rather abruptly, he's screwing Eddie. Who looks mighty good laid out on his back: imagine a taut, ridged abdomen with a hard cock flopped there weightily.

Yet, like the scenes fore and aft (the next one features Mr. Foster and the slender Luca), it's a callow sexcapade.

Things only settle down in the last scene, when Eddie's mugger (Filippo Romano) reappears with a flimsy explanation for the plot, after which they have nice, slightly rough sex. The patented LaRue ride-em-cowboy fuck shots are swell. But we needed this kind of scene up front. It can't redeem *When in Rome*, which isn't the prime piece that a prime piece like Eddie Stone deserved.



Succu-bisexual

That movie would be *Stone Fox*. Subtitled *Smut with Style*, its imaginatively simple settings and relaxed tone are a bespoke showcase for Stone's serene smuttiness. Call it romantically inclined filth, if you like. The dude's just not in a hurry. LaRue sustains the languorously horny mood throughout. Much credit to his crew; even the music's swell.

The first scene's a neverland

room draped in sky-blue silk, with a clear Lucite bubble suspended in mid-air. In it, Mr. Stone and Johnny Hazzard make out. I tell you, Glinda's bubble hardly compares: the only wand she had to hold onto was her own.

The second scene's a bower in the clouds: wispy white fabric billows around a chrome-frame bed blanketed in white, on which, in white jockeys, Danny Vox reclines in Eddie's arms. Reality, slightly abstracted, arrives in scene three, with a stylized photographer's studio, in which Claudio Martin and Eddie click pics of each other before clicking with each other.

The finale's a neon-lit netherworld, with Eddie on a bed surrounded by naked men whose hard-ons press lasciviously against a backlit scrim, like succubi waiting to break into his dreams. Which, of course, they do, for a tasty little gangbang, with succubi as gang and Eddie the banged.

Johnny Hazzard and Eddie leisurely appease their hunger, flip-flopping their fucking and then their bodies, so each can cum in his own face. Eddie's load plops right onto his happy tongue. Yum. If only the crew had taped down the suspending chain to stop it rattling against the bubble. The extremes of Danny Vox's sluttiness have been much exposed elsewhere, so here his tender, vulnerable side is refreshing. Lots of foreplay and kissing as the BVDs bulge. Sure, things heat up, and Eddie pummels Danny's sweetly furry buttohole.

The photography sequence brings out the model in *Homme*-worthy Claudio Martin, and exploits Eddie's attractiveness as he strikes poses. Which makes Claudio's cockhead creep out its fore-skin covering. Whoa! Whatta big dick! Thick, long, and heavy. Claudio's a sensual, fevered love-maker; while this outing doesn't have the sensational passion of the rare event that was his pairing with Patrick Downs in *Raw Footage* (I suspect they're lovers), this appearance should brook no complaints. Eddie's phenomenally deep throat engulfs Claudio's titanic tool, before it's banged up his butt, which proves similarly capacious. I rarely feel envious watching porn, but I envied these guys. Which one did I want to be first? Only subsequently, when the three studs were working Eddie so rousing in the finale, and especially when he played middleman in a three-man fuck chain, did I realize, okay, it's Eddie's ass I envy. It's the place to be. Such a swell host. www.channel1releasing.com (800) 997-9073 ▼

since there were no contestants for the SF Leather Sir title, Tom Braddock has agreed to take on the duties of the title for another year. Together with the SF Leather boy "J.R.", they will advance to compete for the Northern California Leather Sir/boy titles up at the Russian River later this year.

In Toronto, Canada, the Eastern Canada Leather Sir/boy titles were bestowed on (Sir) Brandon Matheson and (boy) Dan Falkonham at the Black Eagle Bar in Toronto. They will advance to compete at the international level in St. Petersburg, Florida in October.

Rumors are flying

Former Leather Daddy VI Jason Ladd running for Emperor? Daddy's bar changing its name to

the 440 Club? Richie Chameroy running for Empress? The Hellfire Club finally gave the okay for a transgendered (FTM) person to attend Inferno later this year? Bravo!

Coming your way

Next biggies on the docket: Ms. World Leather and International Deaf Leather in Dallas the weekend of August 6-8; Northwest Leather Sir/boy in Seattle and Great Lakes Leather Sir/boy contests in Indianapolis the weekend of August 26-28. I'll be at both so you'll have the results here first. In the meantime, be all that you can be — just do it in leather! And for up-to-the-minute leather news from columnists around the world, be sure to click on www.L LeatherPage.com. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

enjoying the street fair and if you missed it - shame on you! A weekend to remember, indeed!

California Leather Family

The California Leather Family contests (Leather man, Leather woman and Leather Boy) has set their dates for any and all concerned about running for those titles. Bob Brunson, no longer at Daddy's bar has the event set in motion for the weekend of October 22-24. Applications, tickets, schedules will be available on line in the near future. Stay tuned.

Leather Sir/boy Dept.

In another area of "title" life,

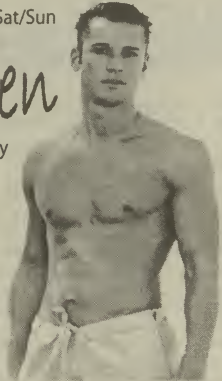
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Michael Feinstein lives the good life

Sings the Jimmy Webb songbook on disc, appears at Davies Hall

by Gregg Shapiro

Only One Life: The Songs of Jimmy Webb (Concord) sounds like an exciting new chapter in Michael Feinstein's career. It's an album devoted entirely to the work of a living contemporary songwriter, and that in itself is significant. Feinstein has spent much of his recording career drawing from the works of American songbook composers such as the Gershwins, Johnny Mercer, Burton Lane, and Richard Rodgers. Webb has been covered by everyone from Glen Campbell and Art Garfunkel to The Fifth Dimension and Linda Ronstadt. Feinstein's collaboration with Webb, the album's co-producer, is a celebration of both Webb's songwriting and Feinstein's own distinctive skills as an interpreter.

Michael Feinstein: I met Jimmy Webb over 10 years ago in Los Angeles. I heard him perform at a nightclub. I had admired him from afar for quite some time because he's a great songwriter and an extraordinary contemporary poet. We spoke afterwards and immediately hit it off. I told him that I hoped to do some of his songs someday. We got together after that, and over the next few years I recorded a couple of his songs which he orchestrated and arranged. We finally started working on *Only One Life* three years ago and just finished it a few



'We tried to mine the essence.'

months ago, and we're very proud of it.

Selecting the songs was not easy, only because Jimmy has a cornucopia of truly great songs. As well as what songwriters refer to as "trunk songs" that they've written for one purpose or another and have never been published or used. I set out to hear as many of his songs as I could. We spent a great deal of time listening so that we could come up with the final selection, which includes six brand-new songs by him that have never been recorded previously.

Gregg Shapiro: You chose to record some of his more familiar

songs, including "Didn't We," "All I Know," and "Up, Up and Away," which you totally succeed in making your own. Do you think that because you have a background in the more traditional material of the American songbook, it worked in your favor?

My background did serve me in interpreting these songs, because I do approach it from a very specific point of view. I approach each song like a blueprint and then figure out how I can build that blueprint by making the song entertaining, and presenting it in a way that will communicate its meaning without screwing around with it. Because Jimmy produced and plays the piano on almost every track, I had his guidance and his encouragement to do certain things with the songs, which in some cases are quite different from the way they were originally presented. We tried to mine the essence of each one.

The doo-wop singers on "Belmont Avenue" are a wonderful touch. Did you ever think that you would have a doo-wop chorus on your album?

I never dreamed I'd work with a doo-wop chorus, but we're in a new century, so why not?

I've been listening to The Wind, the last album that Warren Zevon recorded before his death. It's an

album that keeps his voice alive.

When Jimmy is asked to name who he thinks the greatest contemporary songwriters are, he always says Warren Zevon and Harry Nilsson.

When I interviewed Linda Ronstadt, we talked about both Jimmy and Warren, and their incredible songwriting. Has this album of Jimmy Webb songs opened you up to the possibility of exploring the work of other 20th-century songwriters? Zevon, perhaps, or Joni Mitchell?

Yes, absolutely. Actually, I've been thinking about Randy Newman. I'd love to do a Randy Newman album because there are certain songwriters who only write

songs that suit their voice, and there are other songwriters who write songs that can be interpreted more widely. I'd love to do an album of the songs of Billy Joel, but it would be much harder to do, because his voice is so inseparably connected with so many of his songs. I don't think I could do them better than he could. In the case of Randy Newman, because my voice is so different from his and he writes songs in more of the traditional mode, it would be fun to do covers of many of the things that he's recorded. ▼

An Evening with Michael Feinstein and his jazz ensemble, Sat., July 31, 8 p.m. at Davies Symphony Hall. Call (415) 864-6000.

Touch of Pink

◀ page 39

Bubble wrap

MacLachlan concedes that one of his toughest moments as Cary is when his spirit is trapped naked in a bathtub, during the scene when Alim outs himself to his mother.

"It was a challenge, yes, to create the Cary persona with just a washcloth and some bubbles. I was there listening in on a pivotal scene. Alim is finally confronting his mother, saying, 'Look, this is who I am.' I think he uses Cary as sort of a metaphor for the nakedness he's experiencing. It's comic relief in one of the most emotional scenes in the movie."

Trying to reconcile with both his mother and lover, Alim returns to Toronto, where he confronts his cousin Khaled, who, after a bachelor party, makes a drunken pass at Alim, trying to resume the furtive sexplay they knew as teenagers. Neither man realizes that Alim's mother is listening in the shadows as Khaled embarks on a bitter, women-hating rant, unleashing his frustrations as the prison of marriage awaits him. Rashid thinks the scene gives Western audiences an insight into a heartbreaking reality in Muslim life.

"I'm pitching this film as much to a Muslim audience as a



Director Ian Rashid: 'Movies like this can fan the flame of hope.'

Western one, and I hope it will spark discussion. There is this advocacy for living a double life. On some level, it is perfectly all right to sleep with men, to have sex with men, but never to name it or give it a public face. As long as you have your wife and your children and do what's expected of you, it's actually fine, and families are quite complicit. But, of course, the truth is that leads to tragically sad and unfulfilled lives.

"Hopefully, movies like this can fan the flame of hope, and give people a gleaming of what it might be like to be out and gay and Muslim, that these identities are somehow compatible." *Opens Friday.* ▼

Lavender Tube

◀ page 36

member outing? The practice of ripping the closet door off anti-gay queers? We were once accused of starting the practice in concert with our fellow queer journalist Michaelangelo Signorile when we worked at the New York magazine *OutWeek*. The Chicago Tribune reported that Fox news commentator Bill O'Reilly says he doesn't like the idea of outing, he "doesn't feel comfortable with it." Last week, O'Reilly took guest Michael Rogers to task because Rogers had publicized the names of queer Congressional staffers working for politicians who oppose gay marriage. O'Reilly stated, "We're uneasy with this kind of exposition. Somebody's personal sex life should have nothing to do with any kind of a policy."

Well, since we helped invent outing, we disagree. And apparently so does O'Reilly, unless his

multiple personalities were taking over again. Because on the very same show and for at least the third time in the last year, O'Reilly referred to one of the justices on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, which voted to legalize same-sex marriages, as a lesbian. (The Justice and only woman among the dissenters on the court, Martha B. Sosman, has denied being a lesbian.) On several shows, including the one last Monday, O'Reilly has referred to "the lesbian judge on the Supreme Court who dissented" in the court's landmark ruling. Despite repeated refutations from Sosman, Fox notes the network stands by O'Reilly's claim. According to Fox, O'Reilly bases his outing of Sosman on "more than one independent source." Not surprisingly, Fox did not out any of the sources.

It's going to be a very interesting campaign season. Be sure to stay tuned. ▼

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Bye bye, Bella

by Sweet Lips

The Council of Empresses of San Francisco humbly requests the honor of your presence at an Imperial State Memorial Service for her Imperial Majesty Absolute Empress II of San Francisco, the divine Bella. The event will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 7, at the Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 100 Diamond St. in the heart of the Castro. Formal funeral attire is requested. There will be an optional Pre-Memorial Assembly at the Edge, 4198 18th St., at Noon, with an Informal Processional to the church led by Empress Jose, the Widow Norton, at 12:45 p.m.

Following the Memorial, a Celebration of Life will take place at Marlena's, 488 Hayes St.

One of Bella's best friends, Czarina Michelle, is flying in from New York (in the family jet!) just to do the eulogy. What a nice thing to do!

It's hard to believe, but the Imperial Court will soon celebrate its 40th anniversary! To mark the occasion, a big Imperial Court Gala Celebration will take place on February 20, 2005, so mark the

date and begin making your plans and gowns now.

Our favorite Emperor, Steve Rasher, spent last weekend in Portland on vacation and had a great time with Steve Suss of the Embers/Avenue.

If you haven't been to Ginger's Trois (246 Kearny St.) in a while, you probably won't recognize the bar next time you drop in, as Mason does it over so often. Even the outside of the club has been redone, and it looks great, Mr. Mason, Sir.

Cocktail Hour

Yours Truly had a long telephone conversation with Greta Grass the other day, and that girl remembers things I like to forget! Like what, you ask? Well, let's just say we've all had our wild days!

Dick Deemer is in Mexico right now, loving it completely. In fact, he's coming back to SF for a month, and then he leaves for good! He's even giving up his room here!

Yes, Woody is still holding forth at the Metro, and Richard and Mario are very happy. Good job, Woody!

Kenny and Duffy are going Southeast for a two-week vacation. Have a good time, guys! You will be missed at the Club Rendez-Vous. ▼

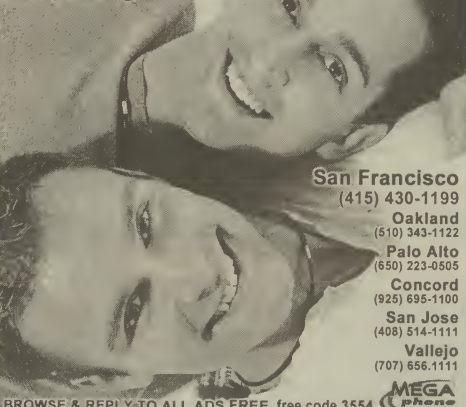
Scissor Sisters mania



Never has a band gotten so much better in so little time. When NYC's gayest band, Scissor Sisters, played at Trannyshack two years ago, they were three cheesy fools singing bad gay disco songs to a backing track. But as their sold-out show at Slim's last Saturday proved, they are now a full band doing good gay disco songs — so good that their debut album is currently #1 in the U.K. It was just released here on Tuesday, and it sounds like a clever pop mix of '70s-era Elton John, BeeGees, and Bowie. And it's just what stale American pop music needs right now. — Adrian Roberts

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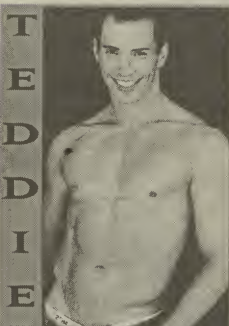
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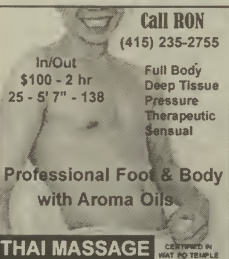
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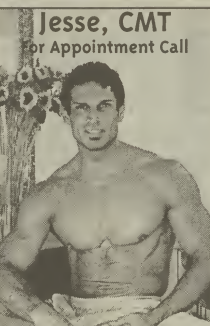
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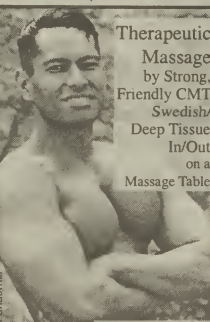
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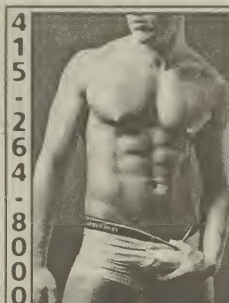
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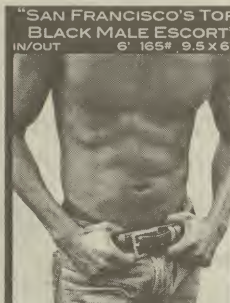
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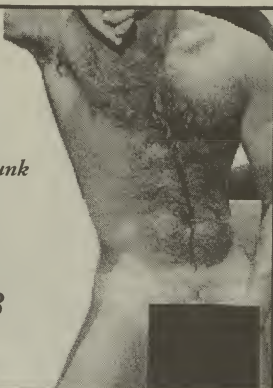
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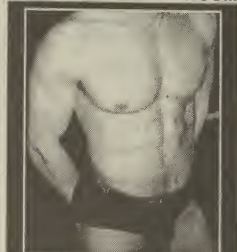
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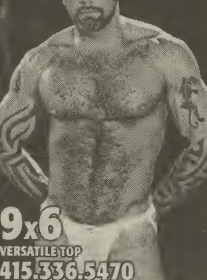
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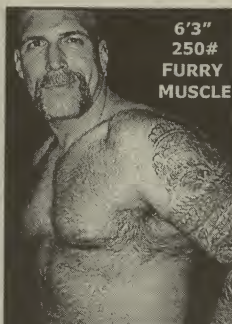
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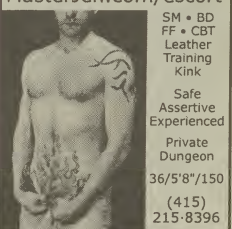
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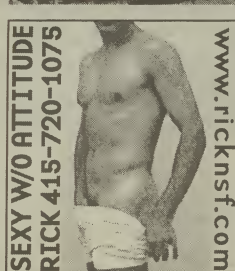
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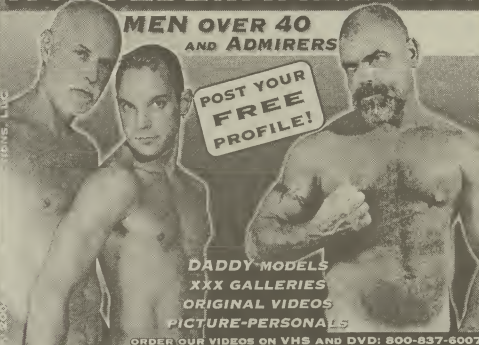
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